

Professional Standards Committee hearings: attendance information

Professional Standards Committees (PSCs) are independent statutory bodies established by the *Medical Practice Act*. PSCs deal with complaints of unsatisfactory professional conduct against medical practitioners, which are prosecuted by the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC).

PSC are legally separate from and independent to the Medical Board. The Board provides administrative and technical support to PSCs, including the listing of upcoming hearings, but it is not a party to proceedings.

Unless otherwise indicated, PSC hearings are held on the premises of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators (IAMA) – Dispute Resolution Centre., located at Level 9, Kusu House, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney. A map of its location can be viewed at:

<http://www.iamadrc.org.au/contacts.html>

Inquiries regarding PSC hearing listings should be directed to the Medical Board. Inquiries regarding individual cases should be referred to the relevant parties.

Public access to the PSC hearing room is subject to the following conditions:

1. No food or drink is allowed in the hearing room.
2. Mobile telephones and pagers must be turned off in the hearing room.
3. No photography, video or audio recording devices are allowed in the hearing room.
4. Members of the public must observe all instructions given by PSC hearing members and staff assisting the hearing.
5. PSC hearing members may refuse access to or order the removal from the hearing room of any member/s of the public at any time.
6. The Chair of a PSC may make non-publication directions affecting the identity of parties, witness and aspects of evidence. All persons must abide by any non-publication direction and must not communicate or disclose to anyone information covered by such a direction. Criminal penalties exist for a breach of a non-publication direction.

Please note that PSC hearings are to be open to the public, *except where the Committee directs otherwise*. When a hearing is closed a sign to that effect is placed on the hearing room door.
