



Information Sheet

Public Health Warning Statements

The Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) can issue a public health warning statement (PHWS) about a health care worker in Western Australia or the Indian Ocean Territories.

What is a PHWS?

HaDSCO can issue a PHWS about a health care worker if they pose a serious risk to public health and safety.

The statement names the health care worker, and includes any information needed to warn the public about the risks.

When is a PHWS issued?

A PHWS can be issued if:

- HaDSCO reasonably believes that the Code of Conduct for certain health care workers has been breached, or
- the health care worker has been convicted of a prescribed offence, and
- HaDSCO is satisfied that it is necessary to issue a PHWS to avoid serious risk to public health and safety.

The statement can be issued at any stage of an investigation into the health care worker's conduct. It can also be revoked or amended as required.

A PHWS is not always issued in conjunction with an interim prohibition order or prohibition order. It also does not prevent the health care worker from operating.

What happens when a PHWS is issued?

The health care worker can request a review of the decision to publish the statement to the State Administrative Tribunal.

To view all PHWS issued by HaDSCO, visit our website at hadsco.wa.gov.au.

Need more information?

Contact HaDSCO at (08) 6551 7620 or mail@hadsco.wa.gov.au. Our office is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.