



## Information Sheet

# Prohibition Orders

The Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) can issue a prohibition order (PO) against a health care worker who has breached the Code of Conduct for certain health care workers (Code of Conduct) in Western Australia or the Indian Ocean Territories

### What is a PO?

A PO can permanently prohibit a health care worker from providing all or part of a health service, or place conditions on the provision of the health service.

A PO takes effect on the day it is provided to the health care worker, and can be revoked or amended.

### Why would a PO be issued?

A PO can be issued at the conclusion of an investigation if:

- HaDSCO is satisfied that the Code of Conduct 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 PO to avoid serious risk to public health and safety.

### What happens when a PO is issued?

Prior to issuing a PO, HaDSCO will give written notice to the health care worker and invite them to make a written or oral submission about the proposed PO.

If a PO is issued, the health care worker can request a review of the decision to the State Administrative Tribunal.

### What happens if a PO is breached?

Failure to comply with a PO could result in a fine of up to \$30,000.

POs issued in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria are recognised in Western Australia. This means that it is an offence to provide health services in Western Australia if a PO has been issued against the health care worker in one of these States.

The penalty for breaching an interstate PO is \$30,000 for individual health care workers, and \$60,000 for body corporates.

To view all POs issued by HaDSCO, visit our website at [hadsco.wa.gov.au](http://hadsco.wa.gov.au).

### Need more information?

For more information, contact HaDSCO at [mail@hadsco.wa.gov.au](mailto:mail@hadsco.wa.gov.au) or (08) 6551 7620. Our office is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.