

Media release

4 July 2011

Board announces 2012 registration fees

The Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) has set its 2012 registration fees, limiting fee increases within a CPI rate of 3.3%.

As the National Scheme is funded entirely by registration fees (there is no ongoing government funding except for part of the scheme in NSW in which there is a co-regulatory arrangement), fees need to be set to enable National Boards and AHPRA to meet their responsibilities under the National Law.

Board Chair Dr Robert Fendall said that fees are set to ensure the Board can continue to provide robust and safe regulation of osteopathy in Australia and to protect the public.

"Ensuring that osteopaths in Australia are adequately qualified and experienced is one aspect of the Board's work. The other is to provide National registration standards, policies, codes and guidelines to guide the osteopathy profession", said Dr Fendall.

In setting its budget for the 2011/12 financial year, the Board has reviewed all registration fees in consultation with its finance and management committee and AHPRA. The Board has limited the fee increase to CPI, so the annual renewal fee will be \$496 from the 30 November 2011 renewal period.

"The new registration fee schedule will allow the Board to continue its work as required by the National Law", said Dr Fendall,

In consultation with the other nine Boards under the National Scheme, the Osteopathy Board of Australia has reinstated a late registration renewal fee from 2011-12 (this had been suspended for the first year of the National Scheme). The late fee will apply to practitioners who apply to renew during the one month 'late period' built into the National Law and will be charged at 25% of the renewal fee, recognising the additional costs to AHPRA of managing late renewals. It will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

The Board also approved a Fast Track application fee. The fast track application was introduced this year to assist practitioners whose registration has lapsed but who wish to remain in practice. This fast-track process is open for one month after the end of the late period. The fast track fee will be 50% of the normal application fee for registration and will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

In addition to the work of the Board, fees are also used to support the continuing work associated with introducing the National Scheme and providing new services that help Boards to protect the public and guide the professions. For example, in 2012, AHPRA will be working with National Boards to pilot and introduce audits of practitioner compliance with National Board registration standards.

The 2012 fee schedule is published on the Board's website.

Under the National Law, the Board sets its fees which are then agreed by the AHPRA Agency Management Committee through a formal health professions agreement.

For more information

- Visit <u>www.osteopathyboard.gov.au</u> under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200