

Media release

1 November 2013

2012/13 National Scheme Annual Report published

The 2012/13 Annual Report of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards has been published.

The report details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme over the 12 months to 30 June 2013.

There are now more than 590,000 health practitioners registered to practise in Australia – an increase in all professions and more than ever before – with one in 20 working Australians a registered health practitioner.

‘The National Scheme has a significant impact on the lives of many Australians – directly on all health practitioners who are registered to practise, and indirectly through our work to protect public safety and maintain professional standards,’ AHPRA Agency Management Committee Chair Peter Allen said.

‘The ongoing, effective functioning of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is a reflection of the partnership and collaboration between AHPRA and the National Boards,’ Mr Allen said.

For the osteopathy profession the report reveals that:

- 1,769 osteopaths were registered at the end of June 2013, an increase of 10.9 per cent since national registration data was first published in June 2011
- eight notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about osteopaths, two were lodged outside of NSW where there is a co-regulatory system¹
- eight notifications were closed at the end of June 2013, including five managed outside of NSW
- of the five notifications closed under the National Scheme, the Osteopathy Board of Australia determined:
 - that no further action was required in three cases
 - to issue a caution to one osteopath, and
 - to issue a reprimand in the remaining case.
- the Board consulted on a framework to support pathways for registration of overseas-trained osteopaths, and
- guidelines on sexual and professional boundaries, informed consent and supervision of osteopaths were developed and published by the Board.

¹ NSW is part of the National Scheme but notifications about practitioners’ health, performance and conduct are handled by the [HCCC](#) and the NSW health professional councils supported by the [HPCA](#).

Osteopathy Board of Australia Chair, Dr Robert Fendall, said effective and proportionate regulation was the constant goal of all National Boards.

'Every decision National Boards make consciously focuses on striking the right balance between public safety and facilitating access to health services,' Dr Fendall said.

'This report explains the work we do, and accounts to the community and the health professions about how we do it,' he said.

The annual report is published on the [AHPRA website](#) under *Legislation and publications*.

It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Osteopathy Board of Australia.

A media release about the report – with data across professions and jurisdictions – is published on the [AHPRA website](#).

For more information

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