



Communiqué

November 2015 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 74th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 November 2015 in Melbourne. The Board publishes this communiqué on our website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Student and graduate video

A three minute video has been published this month by the Board. It outlines what graduates need to do before they can register and practise as osteopaths, and what they need to do to renew their registration each year once they are registered. The Board has also released a PowerPoint, '*Osteopathy registration: what you need to know*'. It explains in further detail the information touched on in the video. This video and other information for students and graduates is available on the [Student registration](#) page of the Board's website.

Revised standards for all osteopaths

The Board has published the revised continuing professional development (CPD) and recency of practice registration standards. The revised standards came into effect on 1 December 2015. The professional indemnity insurance (PII) registration standard will be published shortly and will take effect in mid-2016. The new and retired versions of the registration standards are published on the Board's '*registration standards*' [webpage](#).

Meeting with Osteopathy Australia's board of directors

After the Board meeting on 26 November 2015, the Osteopathy Board of Australia met with the board of directors of Osteopathy Australia to discuss issues of mutual concern and share early planning for 2016/17.

National drug screening protocol

From November 2015, all osteopaths who have restrictions placed on their registration by the Board as a result of past substance misuse will be subject to routine quarterly hair testing, in addition to random urine testing.

The introduction of routine hair testing is based on expert advice about modern screening methods. Routine hair testing helps provide comprehensive information about the use – over time – of a wide range of drugs (not just based on the practitioner's drug taking history).

The drug screening protocol is part of a wider, national strategy to effectively manage compliance and monitoring across the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). More information can be found in the [statement](#) published on the Board's website.

2014/15 National Scheme annual report

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their 2014/15 annual report on the National Scheme, providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The annual report is published at www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015. 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](#). We will be publishing

osteopathy specific and individual state and territory reports in coming weeks. We will let you know when these are released.

Keeping in touch with the Board

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au. Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policy and guidelines affecting their profession.

Dr Nikole Grbin (Osteopath)
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia

8 December 2015