



## Communique

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### **Fifth meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia 25 February 2010**

The fifth meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia was held on 25 February 2010 at the Hilton Melbourne Airport. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

As in previous meetings, in its fifth meeting the Board focussed on the matters it had to resolve to enable the scheme to commence on 1 July 2010.

#### **Proposed registration standards**

The registration standards proposed by the Board will soon be considered for approval by Health Ministers at Ministerial Council. The standards specify the Board's requirements for:

- criminal history registration standard
- English language requirements registration standard
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard
- continuing professional development registration standard
- recency of practice registration standard

The final standards will be published on the Board's website at [www.osteopathyboard.gov.au](http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au) soon after Ministers' consideration.

#### **Codes and guidelines**

In March 2010, the Board will consult on a range of codes and guidelines that will provide additional advice for osteopaths about professional conduct and requirements under the national law. The Board will release a consultation paper that sets out all its proposed codes and guidelines early in March and welcomes feedback.

#### **Issues for consultation:**

- A code of conduct for the osteopathy profession, addressing issues like providing good care, working with patients, effective communication, confidentiality and privacy, informed consent, patients with additional needs, adverse events and open disclosure, delegation referral and handover, teamwork, minimising risk, maintaining professional boundaries, health records, conflicts of interest, financial and commercial dealings
- Guidelines on mandatory reporting, explaining the situations when a health practitioner or their employer must notify the Board through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency about a registered health practitioner's misconduct. There are four types of misconduct: intoxication, sexual misconduct, impairment and significantly departing from accepted professional standards. These guidelines are expected to be common across all National Boards

- Guidelines on Advertising, including what is acceptable advertising, such as factual statements about the services a osteopath provides. The Guidelines also define what is unacceptable, such as not disclosing risks associated with a treatment. The Guidelines clarify the acceptable use in advertising of titles, warning statements, advertising of price and how to complain about a breach of the Guidelines. These guidelines are likely to be common across all National Boards
- Guidelines on CPD, which support the proposed registration standard and which explain what activities count as CPD and how to keep records of your CPD.

### **Communication**

The Board considered its communication needs in the lead up to the introduction of the national scheme and will be working very closely with State and Territory Boards during this period.

### **Registration Fees**

The Board will be setting the 2010 - 2011 registration fees at its meeting in March and this will be communicated to the profession in April.

### **Registration Transition Arrangements**

The Board considered its communication needs in the lead up to commencement of the national scheme. It will be working very closely with State and Territory Boards during this period. Every registrant will receive a letter from AHPRA (the Agency supporting the Board) towards the end of April, detailing the transition process, advising them of their personal registration status and outlining what is required of them to ensure a safe transition to the National Scheme. Individual registrants are also encouraged to make sure that their contact details are up to date with their existing registration board, as this information will be transferred to the national scheme.

Regular updates and FAQs will be published on the National Board website.

Robert Fendall  
Chair, Osteopathy Board of Australia

25 February 2010