

## Communiqué

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### Sixth meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia 25 March 2010

The Osteopathy Board of Australia (Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

At its sixth meeting on 25 March 2010, the Board made decisions about a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

### Transition arrangements

#### April letter

The Board will be writing to every registered osteopath in late April, to support the transition of all registrants into the national scheme. The letter will explain each osteopath's registration type from 1 July 2010. The letter will detail the information that will appear on the online national Register of Osteopaths. The Board is urging all osteopaths to make sure the contact details held by their current state or territory board are accurate and up to date before 30 June 2010.

The Board made a range of decisions about this transitioning process. In general, osteopaths will transition to the type of registration that matches their current registration. While the name of some registration categories will change, the Board has no intention to change any osteopath's scope of practice. Please check the registration type allocated to you in the April letter and provide feedback to AHPRA if there are any errors.

#### Conditions, undertakings and reprimands on the Register

The National Law requires the Board to publish conditions imposed and undertakings accepted from osteopaths on the Register of Osteopaths. However, the National Law also allows the Board to decide to not record a condition imposed or an undertaking accepted when the osteopath has an impairment, if it is necessary to protect the osteopath's privacy and there is not an overriding public interest for the condition or the details of the undertaking to be recorded.

For the first time, the Board is required to publish on the Register when a reprimand has been issued to an osteopath. The Board decided that it will routinely remove reprimands from the registers after five years if there has been no other health, conduct or performance action against the osteopath during that period. This applies to reprimands issued after 1 July 2010.

#### Proof of identity

The Board approved an approach for authenticating the identity of an individual who applies for registration. This approach relies on a 100-point check, consistent with the Attorney General's standard. It applies to all new applications for registration from 1 July 2010.

## Communications plan

The Board recognises that as 1 July 2010 approaches, it is necessary to increase the communication with stakeholders. The Board approved a communications plan with the key features that include risk assessment and issues management, external communications, stakeholder engagement, government relations, media-management and consultation strategies.

## Conclusion

There is an increasing number of decisions that the Board needs to make as 1 July 2010 approaches. The Board acknowledges that the transition to the national scheme involves potential risk. Individual osteopaths can help reduce this risk by reading the April letter from the Board carefully and making sure that all details are correct. As a preliminary step the Board encourages all registrants to ensure their contact details held by their existing state or territory registration board are up to date.

**Robert Fendall**

**Chair, Osteopathy Board of Australia**

**25 March 2010**