



Communiqué

Seventeenth Meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia 24 March 2011

The seventeenth meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia was held on 24 March 2011 in Melbourne. The Board is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

Osteopaths and the title 'Dr'

The Osteopathy Board of Australia will shortly amend the Register of Practitioners so every registered osteopath in NSW and WA will be displayed on the Register with the title 'Dr', as is possible for osteopaths based in other jurisdictions.

Under the National Law, an appropriately qualified practitioner can use the title 'Dr'. However, the practitioner must make clear to the public what is their area of expertise and qualification. The National Law also prevents a practitioner from 'holding themselves out' as having qualifications or expertise they do not have.

Feedback from the osteopathic profession indicated strong support for the display of the title 'Dr' on the National Register for all practitioners. Accordingly, the Board is making this change to ensure consistency within the profession.

'Dr' is a courtesy title and its appropriate use is explained in the guidelines adopted by all National Boards on the *Advertising of Regulated Health Services* published at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au under [Codes and Guidelines](#).

These guidelines require practitioners (who are not registered medical practitioners) who choose to adopt the title 'Dr' in their advertising, whether or not they hold a Doctorate degree or PhD, to make it clear that they do not hold registration as a medical practitioner. In advertising they should include a reference to their health profession whenever the title is used (eg: Dr Jane Smith (Osteopath)).

Any osteopath who does not want the title 'Dr' to be displayed against their name on the National Register should advise AHPRA through an [online enquiry form](#), selecting the drop down category 'general' or by calling AHPRA on 1300 419 495 to request this change.

Limited registration

An interim application form to sit the ANZOC exam was approved and is published on the Board's [website](#).

The Board will be consulting in the coming months on its approach to draft registration standards for limited registration in the public interest, and limited registration for post-graduate training and supervised practice. Information will be published on the Board's website in due course.

Continuing professional development (CPD)

The Board agreed to consult in the coming months on draft revised CPD guidelines to provide additional information and assist osteopaths to meet the Board's future CPD requirements. The guidelines do not alter the general requirements for CPD in the Board's current registration standard.

Infection control

The Board began work on possible guidelines for infection control and will keep the profession informed about progress.

Robert Fendall
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia
1 April 2011