



## Communiqué

### Twenty fourth and twenty fifth Meetings of the Osteopathy Board of Australia 14 and 27 October 2011

The twenty fourth and twenty fifth meetings of the Osteopathy Board of Australia were held on 14 October 2011 in Surfers Paradise, and on 27 October 2011 by teleconference. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's last meetings. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

### Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Guidelines

The Board has published new [Guidelines on Continuing Professional Development](#) (CPD) with an explanatory [Fact Sheet](#) on the Board's website. Osteopaths who apply for registration or apply to renew after 1 July 2012, will have to sign a declaration that they met the CPD requirements in the previous 12 months and comply with the requirements. For *most* osteopaths, 30 November 2012, will be the first time that they will have to declare that they have met the Board's CPD requirements in the previous 12 months (i.e. from 1 December 2011 to 30 November 2012) when they apply to renew their registration.

The Osteopathy Board's CPD requirements are:

- 25 hours CPD, including four hours undertaking mandatory topics approved by the Board and
- a current senior first aid certificate, which is updated every three years, with the CPR component being updated every 12 months.

In each CPD cycle of 12 months, osteopaths will be required to complete a minimum of four hours related to one or more of the following mandatory topics:

- Osteopathy Board of Australia registration standards, codes and guidelines and overview of the National Law
- risk management
- record keeping
- informed consent
- effective communication
- professional boundaries and/or
- confidentiality and privacy.

Osteopaths must maintain an up-to-date portfolio of CPD activities and the portfolio must be retained for three years. The Board may refuse to renew registration if an osteopath has not met the Board's CPD requirements. The Board will also conduct a random annual audit of CPD compliance on a sample of registered osteopaths from 2012. If an osteopath has not complied with the Board's CPD requirements, the Board can investigate the matter.

Guidelines for CPD can be found at [www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx](http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx) and the CPD Fact Sheet at [www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards/FAQ.aspx](http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards/FAQ.aspx)

### Regulators' meeting with the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand

On 14 October 2011, the Osteopathy Board met with the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand to discuss mutual issues regarding regulation in Australia and New Zealand, and provide updates on country-specific regulation and issues for the osteopathy profession.

## Accreditation meeting with the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council

The Osteopathy Board met with the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC) on 14 October 2011 regarding accreditation issues. It was an opportunity for the full boards of both bodies to meet to discuss the accreditation schedule for programs of study, the assessment of overseas trained osteopaths and the Board examination to be conducted by ANZOC for final year students from the Southern Cross University.

The accreditation agreement, budget and structure and membership of ANZOC was also discussed, as was future projects and joint work by both the Board and ANZOC. Another meeting of both boards is planned in February 2012.

## Stakeholders meetings

During October 2011, the Osteopathy Board had the opportunity to meet with stakeholders on a number of occasions.

The Board has continued regular teleconference meetings with the Executives of the Australian Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia (COCA) and ANZOC. The meetings have proved beneficial as forums for consultation and discussing the work of the Board.

On 14 October 2011, the full board of the AOA met with the Osteopathy Board of Australia in Surfers Paradise. In the following two days, the Osteopathy Board was an exhibitor at the AOA's conference and members of the Board and the Executive Officer were able to talk directly to registered osteopaths about the work of the board, registration, and issues such as notification requirements and CPD.

## Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA)

The Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) held its annual meeting and conference in Potsdam, Germany, from 29 September to 2 October 2011. The Chair of the Osteopathy Board of Australia attended an inaugural forum for international osteopathy regulatory authorities which was held as a parallel forum to the OIA AGM and conference. The Chair gave a presentation on regulation of osteopathy in Australia and an overview of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

## Registration and registrant contact details

The annual renewal date for osteopaths is **30 November 2011**. The Board encourages osteopath practitioners to renew early and renew on-line. From now on there is a common renewal date wherever a registered osteopath resides. Practitioners will receive at least three renewal reminder emails (where AHPRA has email addresses), and hard-copy letters have been sent to all osteopaths who did not renew after their first email prompt.

At the time of renewal of registration, osteopaths are encouraged to make sure to update contact details, including current email address. To renew on-line go to [www.ahpra.gov.au/login.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/login.aspx). From 1 to 31 December 2011, practitioners can renew registration during the late period but a **late fee** applies. Once the late period has expired (that is, one month from the registration expiry date), the name of the osteopath who has not renewed registration will be removed from the register and the practitioner will no longer be able to practise. To keep practising, they must lodge a new application for registration. A Fast Track application process is available for four weeks after expiry of the late period, but **additional fees** apply. The fast-track process is a streamlined process of re-registration, which takes approximately two weeks during which time a person **will not be able to practise** until registration has been successfully processed.

Dr Robert Fendall  
Chair  
Osteopathy Board of Australia  
2 November 2011