



Communiqué

March 2012 Meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 31st meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia was held on 22 March 2012. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

Accreditation Council

The Osteopathy Board nominated a Member under the constitution of the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC). The Board's nominee, Ms Judith Dikstein, was accepted at ANZOC's board meeting on 29 March 2012. Ms Dikstein has a wealth of experience with the national registration and accreditation scheme, including as a Community Member of the Optometry Board of Australia and as a Councillor of the Australian Pharmacy Council.

The former sole Member of ANZOC, the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand, ceased to be a Member on 31 March 2012.

Newsletter to registered osteopaths from the Board

The Board sent the second edition of the Board's newsletter to all registered osteopaths during March 2012. The March newsletter can also be viewed at: www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx

The Board is keen to use the newsletter to inform osteopaths about current news. The March newsletter included articles on the phasing in of the Board's recency of practice registration standard; the Board's recently released guidelines on infection control; advice about advertising and a new fact sheet and FAQ; and provides an alert to student osteopaths changing institutions part-way through studying.

The March newsletter was sent in both hard copy and by email. It is pleasing to note that the number of copies needing to be mailed fell by more than 50% when compared with the first edition in November 2011, as more osteopaths have now lodged their email addresses with the Australian Health Regulation Agency (AHPRA). In future the Board will send newsletters electronically and it is important to ensure that AHPRA has an updated email address.

To ensure that future newsletters are received, osteopaths are urged to check their contact details and update them if necessary. This will ensure all osteopaths receive timely reminders from the Board and AHPRA. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

To update contact details, go to www.ahpra.gov.au, click online services, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not the same as your registration number. If you do not have a User ID, then it is a matter of completing an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

Improving registration information for osteopathy practitioners

The Board welcomed the update from the CEO of AHPRA, Mr Martin Fletcher, to the Board on the Registration Lifecycle Management project. This important initiative streamlines AHPRA systems to better manage practitioners' registration information throughout the 'life' of their registration. For

osteopaths this means their registration number will now stay with them for life. Previously, if a practitioner took a break from their registration, they were issued with a new number on re-registration.

A practitioner will only have one registration number for each profession in which they are registered. If they have 'dual' registrations in, say, osteopathy and chiropractic or osteopathy and physiotherapy, then they will have two different single numbers for each profession.

Where an osteopath allows their registration to lapse and he or she applies for registration again, the single registration number which has been assigned to them for life will be re-activated. Improvements have also been made to the way information about a practitioner's registration appears on the public register and on the home page for practitioner online services.

Expressions of interest: panel members

The Board and AHPRA are looking for interested osteopaths and community members, who are keen to be included on a list of people approved to sit on future health or performance & professional standards panels. The Board can refer registered osteopaths to a panel hearing if there are concerns about the practitioner's conduct, performance or health.

More information about the role of panel members and the application process is published on the Board's website under the *News* tab at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au. Applications close on 6 April 2012.

Dr Robert Fendall
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia
5 April 2012