



## Communiqué

### 13 December 2012 Meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 13 December 2012 in Melbourne.

This communiqué outlines the issues discussed and decisions made by the Board at its meeting and other points of interest. The Board publishes this communiqué on its website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in the work of the Board.

#### 2012 review of period of assignment of accreditation council

The Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (the Council) was assigned the role of accreditation authority for the osteopathy profession by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council prior to the commencement of the National Scheme for an initial period of three years.

Following a review including wide-ranging public consultation, the Board has decided to continue this assignment to the Council for a period of 5 years from 1 July 2013.

In making the assignment, the Board is conscious of the need to balance the need for flexibility and responsiveness to developments such as the review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme with the need for certainty and continuity for education providers and to enable effective planning and efficient management by the Council. The Board will build in appropriate flexibility into its future arrangements with the Council and will also establish an agreed program of work and key issues to be addressed during the period of the assignment. The Council will continue to provide the Board with regular reports (in addition to reports on accredited programs) on its activities and governance structures in line with the Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function.

#### Board consultation

On 15 December 2012, the Board commenced preliminary consultations with targeted stakeholders on a proposed additional pathway to add to its current standard assessment pathway to registration for some overseas-trained osteopaths. It is anticipated that the public consultation phase will be in early 2013, to which public consultation submissions can be made. If you are interested in this issue, please check the Board's website at this time.

The following guidelines are being released this month for the public consultation phase and are available for viewing on the Board's website:

- draft *Guidelines for supervision of osteopaths*
- draft *Sexual and professional boundaries: Guidelines for osteopaths*
- draft *Informed consent: Guidelines for osteopaths*

These public consultation papers are published at: [www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx](http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx) Submissions can be sent by email to [osteoboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:osteoboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business **Friday 15 February 2013**.

The Board will keep the profession informed about progress of the consultations through communiqués. The Board generally publishes submissions on its website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders.

### **Stakeholder engagement**

The Chair and Executive Officer of the Board met with the Chair and Registrar of the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand (OCNZ) on 14 December 2012 in Sydney to discuss regulation and accreditation issues of mutual interest.

### **Renewal of registration – late payment period**

Osteopaths are responsible for renewing their registration on time and applications received after the registration expiry date of 30 November 2012 will incur a late payment fee. The late payment fee of \$126 will apply to osteopaths who apply to renew in December 2012. It will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee of \$504.

If a practitioner has not applied to renew their registration by 31 December 2012, their name must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise osteopathy in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this. If you have any questions about completing the application for registration renewal, please contact AHPRA immediately on 1300 419 495.

### **Community Reference Group**

AHPRA is establishing a Community Reference Group on behalf of all National Boards in the National Scheme. The Community Reference Group will consist of ten members from the community who will provide input and advice on how AHPRA and the National Boards can engage the community more effectively. More information on how to apply to become a member will be available on the AHPRA website in coming weeks, with applications expected to close at the end of January.

### **Keeping in touch with the Board**

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at [www.osteopathyboard.gov.au](http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au) or accessible through [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au). Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on Policy and Guidelines affecting their profession

Dr Robert Fendall (Osteopath)  
Chair  
Osteopathy Board of Australia  
18 December 2012