



Communiqué

25 July 2013 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 47th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 25 July 2013 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.

Health Minister announces Board appointments

On 11 July 2013 the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) announced two new appointments of community members to fill vacancies on the Osteopathy Board: Ms Judith Dikstein from the Northern Territory and Mr Robert McGregor AM from New South Wales. Ministerial Council also reappointed the Board's Chair, Dr Robert Fendall who is a practitioner member from NSW. The Ministerial Council will now finalise a vacancy for a practitioner member from either Tasmania, ACT or NT..

Registration fees for 2013/14

The Board has announced the registration fees for osteopaths for 2013/14. The national registration fee has been set at \$516 and the Board is pleased to keep the increase below the CPI of 2.5%. The national fee will apply from 1 August 2013 for all osteopaths in Australia, except the 513 osteopaths with a principal place of practice in NSW. A fee schedule is published on the Osteopathy Board's website.

NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) – so the Health Professional Councils in New South Wales and the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) work in tandem to assess and manage concerns about health practitioners' conduct, health and performance. In all other states and territories, this work is done by the National Boards supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The Osteopathy Council in NSW is responsible for setting the notifications/ complaints element of the registration fee payable by NSW practitioners. The fee NSW practitioners pay is the combined sum of National Scheme costs (for registration and accreditation) and the fee set by the NSW Health Professional Councils for the notification/ complaints component. The NSW government contributes in NSW through funding for the Health Care Complaints Commission. The costs of the notifications/complaint component for osteopathy have increased, so the fee payable by NSW practitioners is above the national fee. Further information on the NSW complaints component of the registration fee is available on the Osteopathy Council of NSW website (www.hpca.nsw.gov.au/Osteopaths-Council/Home/Home/default.aspx). The Osteopathy Board's media statement about the national fee, including more detail on NSW fee setting arrangements, is also published on the [Osteopathy Board's website](#).

The regulation of osteopathy is funded solely by registrant fees and there is no cross subsidisation between professions regulated in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Accredited programs of study

One of the objectives of the National Law is to facilitate the provision of high quality education and training of health practitioners. The National Law sets out the roles of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority, the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC), in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the osteopathy profession.

ANZOC is responsible for accrediting individual programs of study after it is reasonably satisfied that:

- the program of study meets an accreditation standard or
- substantially meets an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time frame.

ANZOC can also refuse to accredit a program of study. ANZOC must give the Board a report after it decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions). After being given an accreditation report, the Board may approve, or refuse to approve, the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

ANZOC advised the Board that in June 2013 it accredited the Bachelor of Health Science / Bachelor of Applied Science (Osteopathy) at RMIT University for a period of five years. The accreditation review was required as a result of a major course change.

The Board considered the ANZOC report on its accreditation of the osteopathy programs at the RMIT University and approved the Bachelor of Health Science / Bachelor of Applied Science (Osteopathy), as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration in the osteopathy to 12 June 2018.

Consultations

The Board is currently undertaking a second round period of public consultation on a revised *Framework: pathways for registration of overseas-trained osteopaths*. The reason for the further consultation is the Board's decision to modify its original proposal for the new pathway. The proposed revised pathway includes a period of six months supervised practice with provisional registration, before general registration. The *Guidelines for Supervision of Osteopaths* and associated forms will also be revised for consultation to reflect this proposed change.

The current public [consultation](#) is on the Board's website under 'News' and a submission can be sent by email to osteoboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on 9 August 2013.

The Board will keep the profession and the community informed about its decision after it has reviewed feedback from the consultation. This may include implementation dates. Submissions will generally be published on the website, unless confidentiality has been specifically requested.

Keeping in touch with the Board

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at [Osteopathy Board of Australia](#). Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news, registration data, newsletters, and updates on policy and guidelines affecting their profession.

Dr Robert Fendall (Osteopath)
Chair

30 July 2013