



Communiqué

24 October 2013 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 50th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 October 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.

Current consultations

International criminal history checks

The National Law requires that all applicants for registration must have a criminal history check. Currently, applicants have an Australian criminal history check and must also sign a declaration disclosing their criminal history in all countries including Australia.

The National Boards are currently consulting on processes for international criminal history checks to assess applications for registration as a health practitioner in Australia. The Boards first consulted on this issue in 2012.

The options are outlined in the consultation paper which is available on the Board's [website](#). The consultation closes on 31 October 2013. The current option aims to balance public protection with the need for responsive and timely application and assessment processes for health practitioners seeking registration in Australia.

Registration standards, codes and guidelines for review

The Board developed registration standards, codes and guidelines for the start of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010. These standards, codes and guidelines were scheduled for review at least every three years.

Registration standards

All National Boards have registration standards that define the requirements that applicants for registration and registrants need to meet to be registered.

The National Boards are currently undertaking public consultation on standards outlining:

- requirements about the **English language skills** necessary for an applicant for registration to be suitable for registration
- matters to be considered in deciding whether an individual's **criminal history** is relevant to the practice of medicine.

The consultation paper is available on the Board's [website](#). Please provide feedback by email to standard.consultation@ahpra.gov.au by 23 December 2013.

Preliminary consultation is currently underway for the registration standards outlining requirements for:

- professional indemnity insurance
- continuing professional development (CPD) and
- recency of practice.

The Board is also consulting on draft revised CPD guidelines. Following preliminary consultation, the Board will release the standards and guideline for public consultation.

Common guidelines

Following public consultation, the National Boards are now finalising the following common guidelines:

- revised *Guidelines for advertising*
- proposed *Social media policy*, and
- revised *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*.

The new guidelines will take effect from the date that they are published on the Board's website.

Registration Renewal

Osteopaths with general or non-practising registration are due to renew their registration with the Board by **30 November 2013**. Registrants will have received information from AHPRA regarding renewal of registration. Online renewal is quick and easy. There is a late fee for renewal applications received during December.

Under the National Law, if you do not apply to renew your registration within one month of your registration expiry date your registration will lapse and you will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. Your name must be removed from the Register of Osteopaths.

If you experience difficulties using the online renewal service you can phone the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495.

To update your contact details using AHPRA's secure online services, you can go to the AHPRA website at www.ahpra.gov.au/ then:

- go to the bottom of the home page
- click on *Update Contact Details* under Services for Practitioners
- use your user ID and secure password, and
- follow the prompts.

Dr Robert Fendall (Osteopath)

Chair

31 October 2013