



Communiqué

28 November 2013 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 51st meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 28 November 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 vacancy: practitioner member from WA

The Board recognised Amanda Heyes' contribution as an inaugural Board member to the Board since August 2009, and that her resignation has been accepted by the Minister. As a consequence, applications are being sought for appointment to a practitioner member vacancy on the Board. For this vacancy, it is a statutory eligibility requirement for the registered osteopath to be from Western Australia. The November edition of the Board's [newsletter](#) contains more information about this vacancy.

National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council, under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). For more information about how to apply for the vacancy visit AHPRA's [Board Member Recruitment page](#) or for enquiries email boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au. Applications close **13 January 2014**.

Competent authority pathway

The Board based its proposed competent authority pathway on advice from and work by its accreditation authority, the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC). ANZOC has the formal role of assessing overseas qualified practitioners and overseas assessing authorities under the National Law.

The Board met with the Deputy Chair and Executive Officer of ANZOC as part of finalising the forthcoming arrangements that each organisation will be responsible for when the competent authority pathway is implemented early in 2014.

Focus on advertising

The Board is currently focusing on advertising of osteopathy services. Under section 133 of the National Law, an osteopath must not advertise a health service that is false, misleading or deceptive or creates an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment. The Board committed to holding practitioners to account against the professional and ethical standards set by the Board.

The most recent and also previous [newsletters](#) contain articles about advertising. The Board will be releasing a revised *Code of Conduct* and *Guidelines for Advertising* for the profession and *Social media policy* in early 2014, after extensive consultation in conjunction with the other National Boards. The Board may release osteopathy-specific statements and fact sheets, as part of the increased focus, and/or AHPRA may send out individual letters if breaches of the National Law are identified in the advertising of osteopathy services.

2012/13 Annual report

AHPRA and the National Boards have published the 2012/13 annual report. The 2013 annual report details the work of the National Boards over the 12 months to 30 June 2013. It contains a wealth of data

about all the professions regulated through the National Scheme, as well as specifically about the medical profession. It provides useful insights into the work of the Board and AHPRA. The 2012/13 Annual Report is available on the [AHPRA website](#) under 'Legislation and Publications'.

Renewal of registration for 2013/14

Osteopaths with general or non-practising registration were due to renew their registration with the Board by 30 November 2013. 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** in January and you will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. Your name will be removed from the Register of Osteopaths. You must make a new application for registration and will **not be able to practise** until your application has been finalised.

Audit

AHPRA and the Board are developing a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with the mandatory registration standards.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration; they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that the Board and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking these declarations made by a random sample of practitioners. The audit help to make sure that practitioners are meeting the required standards of practice and provide important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Auditing of all professions has commenced. If you are selected for audit you will be notified in writing and requested to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the standard.

Current consultations

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.

The National Boards are currently undertaking public consultation on the **English language skills, and criminal history**. 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.

Dr Robert Fendall (Osteopath)
Chair
9 December 2013