



Communiqué

19 December 2013 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 52nd meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 19 December 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.

Season's greetings

The National Board would like to extend season's greetings to everyone who has supported the Board in its work during 2013 and wish them all the best for 2014. The Board reflected that 2013 had been extremely busy with consultations relating to developing and also revising codes, standards and guidelines. The Board acknowledges the work that stakeholders have also put into these consultations during the year.

Three new members have joined the Board this year and their fresh perspectives and hard work has been much appreciated. The monthly meetings are planned to be mainly held in Melbourne in 2014, but the Board may meet in other states or territories from time to time.

Competent authority pathway

The Board has announced that the competent authority pathway will commence on 1 January 2014 for some registered osteopaths from the United Kingdom who want to register in Australia. A media release on the Board's [website](#) explains the pathway and has links to all the relevant parts of the Board's website regarding forms, fees and information sheets.

The Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC) has the formal role of assessing overseas qualified practitioners. Individuals who want to practise in Australia must apply first to [ANZOC](#) for a desk top assessment and then successfully complete ANZOC's open book exam based on the *Information on the practice of Osteopathy in Australia - A guide for graduates trained overseas*. Once successful, they may then apply to the Osteopathy Board to be granted provisional registration to undertake a period of supervised practice for six months before applying for general registration.

Matters on hold

From time to time, it is prudent that an investigation is put on hold while other processes – such as police matters or coronial investigations take place. There is a strong public and practitioner interest in the timely resolution of notifications, and disciplinary proceedings arising from notifications. Consequently, the Board has agreed that matters will not be put on hold unless this is required in the interests of justice.

Registration renewal

Osteopaths across Australia were reminded by AHPRA and the National Board that their registration was due for renewal by 30 November 2013. By mid-December, 94 per cent of osteopaths had renewed, the majority online.

If you didn't renew your registration on time, you can still renew until **31 December 2013**, but a late payment fee will apply. The quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is [online](#). Osteopaths

who do not want to renew their registration to keep practising can simply ignore the reminders from AHPRA or go online to 'opt out' of renewing.

AHPRA and the National Board want to make sure that practitioners who wish to renew their registration do so before they risk it lapsing. Renewal reminders will continue to be sent throughout the renewal period. Using the 'opt out' service and registering your decision to not renew registration puts a stop to renewal reminders.

Under the National Law¹, if you haven't renewed by 31 December 2013 your registration will lapse. Your name will be removed from the [national register of practitioners](#) and you must cease to practise osteopathy immediately. If you wish to keep practising you must make a new application for registration.

Fast track application forms will be available on the Board website under *Forms* or by phoning the AHPRA Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 during January. If submitting a fast track application, you cannot practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

An FAQ about renewal is available on the [National Board's website](#)

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
19 December 2013

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).