



Communiqué

27 March 2014 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 55th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 27 March 2014 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.

Meeting with accreditation council

The Board met with the Chair and Executive Officer of the Board's accreditation council, the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC), as part of finalising the forthcoming 2014/15 budget. The meeting was also partly to initiate the accreditation council's project to review and revise the accreditation standards.

Board vacancies: practitioner member from WA and NSW

Applications are being sought for appointment to practitioner member vacancies on the Board. For these vacancies, it is a statutory eligibility requirement for the registered osteopath to be from Western Australia or New South Wales.

National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council), under the National Law¹. The Ministerial Council will also determine the Chair of the Osteopathy Board of Australia from eligible practitioner members, and applicants may also express interest in this role when applying for the relevant vacancy.

For more information on how to apply for a Board vacancy, visit AHPRA's [Board Member Recruitment page](#), or email enquiries to: boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au.

Applications close at 5pm AEST on **14 April 2014**.

Advertising guidelines: update

Revised *Advertising guidelines* came into effect on 17 March for all the regulated health professions. These are published under [Codes and guidelines](#) on the National Board website.

The guidelines were developed by the National Boards and explain the requirements of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([National Law](#)) in relation to advertising and the use of testimonials in advertising. The National Law does not allow testimonials to be used when advertising a regulated health service (section 133).

On 26 March the Medical Board of Australia announced it would revise the guidelines to make them clearer about the use of testimonials. Read the [news item](#) on the Medical Board of Australia website.

The Osteopathy Board of Australia, along with the other 13 National Boards, is now considering whether to revise and clarify the wording on testimonials as part of implementing the new *Advertising guidelines*. The Board's next newsletter will focus on advertising, testimonials and social media.

We will keep practitioners informed and in the meantime, AHPRA is managing complaints about advertising in line with the information in the [advertising FAQ](#) on the National Board website.

This means practitioners are not responsible for removing (or trying to have removed) unsolicited testimonials published on a website or in social media over which they don't have control.

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

Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

If you were in the Twittersphere in late March 2014, you may have noticed that AHPRA has joined the conversation. Less than two weeks into AHPRA's social media journey, the CEO Martin Fletcher ran a live chat #AHPRAqanda.

The chat included nearly 60 participants, and AHPRA tweeted 99 times in the hour. If you missed it, see the chat archive from [the Twitter chat with AHPRA CEO page](#) on the AHPRA website.

AHPRA decided to hold the chat to respond to the online conversations about the National Board advertising guidelines, which gained momentum on Twitter with a number of practitioners and members of the community.

AHPRA will regularly host twitter chats about important topics, and will use this forum to try and get more feedback to National Board consultations.

Privacy Act changes

Amendments to the *Privacy Act 1988* took effect on 12 March 2014. Osteopaths are obliged to ensure that how they collect and maintain information is in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the amended Australian Privacy Principles.

More information is available under [Privacy law reform](#) on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

These amendments to the Act and the Australian Privacy Principles apply to the Board and AHPRA. An updated privacy policy ensuring the National Law is administered in accordance with those changes is available under [Privacy](#) on the AHPRA website.

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 www.osteopathyboard.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

9 April 2014