



Communiqué

29 August 2014 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 60th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 August 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.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme 2014 combined meeting

The National Board meeting was held to coincide with the annual National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting.

The meeting is held to encourage learning through sharing ideas, innovation and networking about the regulation of health professionals. The goal is to help us to increase our understanding and respond to our wider regulatory and reform environment. The combined meeting was attended by members of all of the National Boards, NSW Councils' representatives, the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA staff, government departments, accreditation agencies and regulatory authorities from New Zealand.

On 29 August 2014, the Board took the opportunity to meet with the Chair and Executive Officer of the Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (formerly the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council) to discuss accreditation matters; and the Chair and Registrar of the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand to discuss issues of mutual interest, including common regulatory functions, outcomes and pathways for overseas trained osteopaths.

Health Ministers announce Board appointments

Last month, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) announced the appointment of the Chair and two new practitioner members of the Osteopathy Board:

- Dr Nikole Grbin as the new Chair of the National Board. This appointment is to 30 August 2015 and Dr Grbin continues her current appointment as the National Board practitioner member from South Australia
- Ms Anne Cooper has been appointed for a first term as a practitioner member from New South Wales for a period of three years to 30 August 2017, and
- Dr Andrew Yaksich has been appointed for a first term as a practitioner member from Western Australia for a period of three years to 6 August 2017.

Registration fees for 2014/15

The Board has announced the registration fees for osteopaths for 2014/15. The Board is pleased to reduce the registration fees by \$100 to \$416. Five other national boards have reduced fees for 2014/15. 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 (National Scheme). A fee schedule is published on the Osteopathy Board's website.

The national fee will apply from 9 September 2014 for all osteopaths in Australia, except those with a principal place of practice in NSW where the fee is \$535. NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction within the National Scheme. 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 Osteopathy Board's media statement about the national fee is published on the [Osteopathy Board's website](#).

Students

Osteopathy Board Chair visited each university that offers osteopathy programs during the past two months and presented registration and regulation information to 1st, 2nd and 5th year students. Students of an approved program leading to registration as an osteopath will be able to go online in October to apply for registration before they graduate.

Consultation paper for the three year review of NRAS

On Friday 30th August, the consultation paper for the scheduled three year review of the National Scheme was published. The consultation paper is considering the National Scheme as a whole including the work of Boards, AHPRA, accrediting entities and the role of governments. The consultation paper can be accessed [here](#).

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
30 August 2014