



Communiqué

26 February 2015 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 65th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 February 2015 in Melbourne. This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's meeting. The Board publishes this communiqué on our website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Stakeholder and co-regulatory meetings

The Board took advantage of a break in its meeting schedule to have meetings with members of Osteopathy Australia in January and the Osteopathy Council of NSW in February. A Board priority is to continue building relationships with these two entities and planning has started for future engagements in June.

Competent authority pathway evaluation

The Board introduced the competent authority pathway (CAP) a year ago for eligible registered osteopaths from the United Kingdom. There has been a steady flow of applications for Board consideration at each meeting, for provisional registration to undertake a period of supervised practice for six months.

The Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council will commence an evaluation of the CAP this month and present results to the Board in the middle of the year.

New approach to international criminal history checks

A new procedure for checking international criminal history to provide greater public protection is being implemented by all National Boards and AHPRA.

In effect from 4 February 2015, this new approach requires [certain applicants and practitioners](#) to apply for an international criminal history check from an AHPRA approved supplier and was first announced in November last year. The supplier will provide the international criminal history check report to the applicant and directly to AHPRA.

The new process for checking international criminal history aims to strike a balance between public safety and regulatory burden for practitioners. More information is in the [media release](#) on the Board's website.

National drug screening protocol strengthened

Mandatory hair testing for all registered health practitioners with substance-related impairment will now be routine in a move by AHPRA and the National Boards to strengthen the national drug screening protocol.

Under the protocol, all health practitioners who have restrictions on their registration linked to past substance abuse will have routine hair testing in addition to urine testing. Routine hair testing helps provide comprehensive information about the use – over time - of a wide range of drugs (not just based on the practitioner's drug taking history).

National Boards will continue to make decisions about individual practitioners with impairment case by case, based on testing standards set out in the protocol.

The drug screening protocol is part of a wider, national strategy to effectively manage compliance and monitoring across the National Scheme. The strategy has been progressively implemented from July 2014. More information is in the [media release](#) on the AHPRA website.

Updating contact details

To check or update your contact details, go to the online services panel for practitioners on the homepage of the Board's website and click on the relevant link. Enter your user ID, date of birth and password to access your account. Please note that your user ID is not your registration number. If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call 1300 419 495.

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 Nikole Grbin (Osteopath)

Chair

Osteopathy Board of Australia

5 February 2015