



Communiqué

29 May 2015 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 68th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 May 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.

Health Profession Agreement and fees

The Health Profession Agreement (HPA) between the Board and AHPRA is being finalised and will be published on the Board's website shortly. It sets out the services that AHPRA will provide to support the Board to regulate osteopaths. The HPA will provide information about the Board's financial operations and fees.

Royal commission into institutional responses to child sex abuse

The Board and AHPRA have been following the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#) and its implications for the regulation of health practitioners. The issues raised in the Royal Commission are serious and disturbing.

The Board and AHPRA are committed to learning from the evidence before the Royal Commission and its findings and taking action to make sure our regulatory system is responsive to anyone who has been sexually abused by a registered health practitioner, who comes forward.

If you have a concern about a health practitioner call:

- AHPRA 1300 419 495
- NSW 1800 043 159, or
- Queensland 133 646 (133 OHO).

Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. You can find the latest report and other statistics [here](#).

Top tips for using the register

The [register of practitioners](#) is core to all of our work because it provides up to date information about every registered health practitioner. To help the public and employers get the most out of the register, we have developed [these tips](#). In particular, the tips remind anyone responsible for recruiting health practitioners how to use the register to verify a practitioner's registration status.

Revised criminal history and English language skills registration standards published

The registration standards for criminal history and English language skills have been revised following consultation and have now been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. Both standards take effect from 1 July 2015.

Criminal history

The new criminal history registration standard is common to all National Boards. The changes are expected to have minimal impact on practitioners as no changes have been made to the factors National Boards will take into account when considering an applicant's or registrant's criminal history.

When a practitioner first applies for registration, the National Board requires the applicant to declare their criminal history in all countries, including Australia. All registered health practitioners must inform their National Board if they are:

- charged with an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more, or
- convicted or found guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment in Australia and/or overseas.

When practitioners renew their registration they must disclose any changes to their criminal history.

The registration standard and associated explanatory information are published on [AHPRA's website](#).

English language skills

The new registration standard for English language skills applies to all applicants for initial registration, regardless of whether they qualified in Australia or overseas.

The new standard introduces additional pathways for applicants to demonstrate evidence of their English language skills.

The new standard was developed after a review of the existing standard, which included a public consultation. All Boards, except the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia, consulted on and revised their English languages skills registration standard. The registration standards are now largely common across professions.

The registration standard and supporting information are published on [AHPRA's 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.

Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

AHPRA uses [Twitter](#) to encourage greater discussion about National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

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](#)

12 June 2015