



Communiqué

October 2015 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 73rd meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 October 2015 in Melbourne. 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.

Revised standards for all osteopaths

Revised registration standards for continuing professional development (CPD) and recency of practice have now been published, and will come into effect on 1 December 2015. They will apply to all osteopaths, who will need to meet the obligations of the revised standards by the next registration renewal period on 30 November 2016.

Below is a summary of the main changes:

- **Recency of practice** hours have been increased from 400 to 450 in an osteopath's current domain of practice in the previous three years.
- For **recency of practice** the definition at the end of the registration standard has changed so that 'clinical practice' means direct clinical care or oversight of direct clinical care (emphasis is the addition to the definition).
- For **recency of practice** the definition of 'recent graduate' is now changed to: 'on the basis of a qualification that was awarded more than 12 months ago' (emphasis is the change to the definition from six months).
- 'Scope of practice' defined in both the **CPD and recency of practice** registration standards updated to use the standard definition across National Boards: 'Scope of practice means the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is educated and competent to perform'.
- The **CPD registration standard** now requires osteopaths to maintain records of CPD activity for five years in case of audit.
- The requirement to undertake a 12-month refresher of CPR has been removed from the revised **CPD guidelines**. The requirement stays in the registration standard to hold a current senior first aid certificate at the minimum standard of a Senior First Aid (level 2) certificate or equivalent. The latter is updated every three years which is unchanged.
- The list of mandatory activities has been refreshed in the revised **CPD guidelines**, and is at least four hours of CPD each year on one or more of the following topics:
 - Osteopathy Board of Australia registration standards, codes and guidelines and overview of the National Law¹, particularly when new or updated versions are published
 - advertising a regulated health service and social media policy
 - evidence-based practice
 - risk management
 - record keeping
 - informed consent
 - effective communication
 - professional boundaries, and
 - confidentiality and privacy.

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

Panel member recruitment

The Board approved the appointment of four osteopathy practitioners on a List of Approved Persons (LAP) for appointment to panels. These positions were advertised in August 2015, and the Board is pleased with the response. Letters will be sent to those appointed to the LAP this month.

The Board convenes health panels and performance and professional standards panels when required to hold hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters for individual registered health professionals; and chooses panel members from a LAP.

Efficiencies in committee structures

The Board has continued to conduct its business of regulating the profession with increasing efficiency, allowing it to reduce the national registration fee for 2015/16 through improvements such as in its committee structures.

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 November 2015