



## Communiqué

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### December 2015 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 15 December 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 professional indemnity insurance arrangements

The Board has published the revised professional indemnity insurance (PII) registration standard which will take effect on **1 July 2016**. The revised registration standard and a fact sheet are published on the Board's website under [Registration Standards](#).

The Board also has a [news item](#) on the website which explains the key changes, when these will come into effect, and when the obligations will need to be met.

#### Accredited programs of study

One of the objectives of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) is to facilitate the provision of high quality education and training of health practitioners. The National Law sets out the role of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority, the Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC), in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the osteopathy profession.

The AOAC is responsible for accrediting individual programs of study after it is reasonably satisfied that:

- the program of study meets an accreditation standard, or
- substantially meets an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time frame.

The AOAC can also refuse to accredit a program of study. The AOAC must give the Board a report after it decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions). After being given an accreditation report, the Board may approve, or refuse to approve, the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

Programs of study approved by the Board are published on the Board's [website](#).

The Board made the following decisions at the December meeting.

#### Approval of programs of study at Victoria University

Under section 49(1) of the National Law, the Board decided to:

- continue to approve the Bachelor of Science (Clinical Science) / Master of Health Science (Osteopathy) at Victoria University as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in the osteopathy profession; which is the existing program of study, and
- approve the Bachelor of Science (Osteopathy) / Master of Health Science (Osteopathy) at Victoria University as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in the osteopathy profession; which is a new program of study commencing in early 2016.

#### New resources outline objectives and role of the National Scheme

A new video and an accompanying infographic explaining the Australia-wide scheme that is in place to protect members of the public has recently been launched by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Working in partnership with the 14 National Boards, AHPRA helps regulate Australia's 630,000 registered health practitioners through a national scheme.

[The video](#) explains how the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) works and how patients are protected.

Both resources are available on the [What we do](#) page of the AHPRA website. The video can also be watched on AHPRA's [YouTube channel](#).

### Employer obligations

If you employ registered health practitioners, you have an important obligation to ensure that they hold current registration and that you understand your mandatory notification requirements under the National Law.

AHPRA has published [resources](#) to help you understand and meet your obligations, which are designed to complement your recruitment requirements and processes. These materials state exactly what your obligations are and it is important that you are familiar with them.

### Quarterly registration data

The Board has recently published its [quarterly data](#) profiling Australia's osteopathy registrants.

As at September 2015, there were a total of 2,001 registered osteopaths comprising of the following number of registrants according to registration type:

- 1,925– general registration
- 11 – provisional registration
- 1 – limited registration, and
- 64 – non-practising registration.

### Osteopathy Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will soon publish a report of its work in the osteopathy profession in the National Scheme during 2014/15.

The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for osteopaths in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme and will be available soon 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](http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au). Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policy and guidelines affecting their profession.

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Chair  
Osteopathy Board of Australia

13 January 2016