



## Communiqué

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### June 2016 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 80<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 30 June 2016 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.

The whole Board meets as the Registration and Notification Committee (RNC) on the same day as the Board meetings to consider registration and notification (complaint) matters.

#### Standard Pathway Assessment review by AOAC – have your say

The Board has tasked the Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC) to evaluate the Standard Pathway Assessment for overseas trained Osteopaths seeking to practice in Australia. The objective of the project is to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the current process to inform improvements in the assessment of overseas trained Osteopaths.

The **AOAC Standard Pathway Assessment Consultation [online survey](#)** should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

*Note: When you click on the online survey link, you will be taken to a survey on a third party website, hosted by SurveyMonkey. The information you provide will be handled in accordance with the privacy policy of SurveyMonkey accessible [here](#).*

#### Revised PII standard for all osteopaths take effect from 1 July 2016

In December 2015, the Board published a revised registration standard for professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements that takes effect from 1 July 2016. The [revised standard](#) now applies to all registered osteopaths except those with non-practising registration.

The key change in the new PII arrangements registration standard is the minimum amount of cover specified in the current standard (\$20 million) has been removed.. The new standard aims to take a more contemporary and flexible approach, and requires registrants who are taking out their own insurance to do an objective self-assessment, informed by policies provided by insurance providers, to ensure they have adequate and appropriate insurance arrangements or professional indemnity cover for their practice.

Further changes have been made to improve the clarity and workability of the standard, and understanding of the requirements and obligations of registrants. There have been some minor changes to the requirements relating to run-off and retroactive cover to avoid duplication and provide more clarity.

An insurer providing PII to osteopaths must generally be registered with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) or be a Lloyd's underwriter ([APRA's website](#) contains a list of registered general insurers).

#### Transition period to meet the new standard

The Board published the standard well in advance of its commencement to provide osteopaths adequate time to ensure their arrangements for PII will meet the new registration standard. To ensure a smooth transition to the new standard, the Board has allowed for a transition period to meet the standard.

**All osteopaths must meet the new standard by the time they renew their registration which is due by 30 November 2016.**

Until that time, it is acceptable that your PII arrangements meet the Board's registration standard for PII arrangements dated 1 July 2010. However, if your PII policy is **due for renewal in the meantime** you should ensure that your **new** policy meets the new standard.

More information about the new PII arrangements standard, including the consultation report, FAQ and a fact sheet, is available on the [Professional indemnity insurance arrangements](#) page of the AHPRA website.

### Responsible advertising

The Board would like to remind all registered osteopaths that you must comply with the provisions of the National Law on the advertising of regulated health services, relevant consumer protection legislation, and state and territory fair trading Acts and, if applicable, legislation regulating the advertising of therapeutic goods.

Good practice also involves ensuring that any promotion of therapeutic products is ethical.

All practitioners must be familiar with the *Code of conduct* and *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services* (the guidelines). The guidelines provide any person who advertises a regulated health service or business that provides a regulated health service with guidance on the obligations of advertisers under the National Law.

The Board has previously published a special Advertising Bulletin for osteopaths in June 2015 and it is available to review at: [www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx](http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx)

The National Law bans specific types of advertising, including (but not limited to) advertising in a way that:

- a. makes misleading claims
- b. offers an inducement such as a gift or discount (unless the relevant terms and conditions are also included)
- c. uses testimonials, and/or
- d. creates unreasonable expectations of beneficial treatment, or encourages the indiscriminate or unnecessary use of a service.

The Board would encourage you to check your website against the banned types of advertising to avoid any inadvertent breaches of the National Law.

### Quarterly registration data

The Board has released its quarterly [registration data](#).

### 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.

Dr Nikole Grbin (Osteopath)  
Chair  
Osteopathy Board of Australia

4 July 2016