



Communiqué

September 2016 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 83rd meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 September 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 complaint (notification) matters.

Osteopathic International Alliance

The Board's Chair, Dr Nikole Grbin, attended the annual Osteopathic International Alliance meeting in Anaheim, California, and associated meetings from 15 to 20 September 2016. The conference focused on osteopathy regulation, education, research and association leadership.

During the conference, the Dr Grbin took the opportunity to meet with the Chair of the Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC) and CEO of the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) in the UK. It was an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest, including common regulatory functions, outcomes and pathways for overseas-trained osteopaths

In 2016 a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Board, AOAC, GOsC and the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand.

More information about your advertising obligations

National Boards across the National Scheme continued to discuss issues about claims in advertising, in particular claims about benefits of treatments.

The Board would like to remind all practitioners that they must comply with the provisions of the National Law on the advertising of regulated health services, relevant national, state and territory consumer protection legislation and, if applicable, legislation regulating the advertising of therapeutic goods.

The Board has published further information on its [website](#) to help osteopaths better understand their advertising obligations, including [Further information on advertising therapeutic claims](#).

This information does not replace the Board's [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#) which should be an osteopath's first point of reference to understanding their obligations.

The burden is on you to substantiate any claim you make that your treatments benefit patients. If you do not understand whether the claims you have made can be substantiated based on acceptable evidence, then remove them from your advertising.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is responsible for prosecuting breaches of the advertising requirements in the National Law. This means that AHPRA with the Board needs to decide whether there has been a breach of your advertising obligations.

These are serious matters that can have serious consequences for your professional standing: **if in doubt about a claim, leave it out of your advertising.**

Renewal of registration is now open

The Board noted that practitioners will shortly be receiving their first advice to review their registration by 30 November 2016. Under the National Law, osteopaths are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year. Renewal applications received within a month after the expiry date will incur a late fee.

Those who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the [Register of practitioners](#). Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise or work as an osteopath in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

A series of reminders to renew are being sent to practitioners by AHPRA, on behalf of the Board. The email reminders include a link to [online renewal](#). The Board encourages osteopaths to renew online and reminds them to make sure that AHPRA has their current contact information so that they receive future email and hard copy reminders to renew.

A video explaining how to renew registration online is available on the [Practitioner Services](#) page of the AHPRA website. More information is available on the Board's [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. 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

11 October 2016