



Communiqué

October 2016 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 84th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 21 October 2016 in Brisbane. The Board publishes this communiqué on its 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 Education Forum and stakeholder meetings

Board members attended the Strategic Education Forum on 20 October in Brisbane which was hosted by the Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC). The forum focused on the new accreditation standards; current university programs and implications for the future; competencies; mentoring, continuing professional education, and development. The forum was also attended by representatives from the three university programs, Osteopathy Australia (OA), Osteopaths New Zealand, and the Osteopathy Council of New Zealand. All participants agreed it was an outstanding success and would like to see it as an annual event.

The Board met formally with the OA and AOAC in separate meetings on 21 October 2016 to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Bulletin to registrants about advertising obligations

The Board emailed registrants on 17 October 2016 with a second advertising [bulletin](#) to remind them that they must comply with the provisions of the National Law on the advertising of regulated health services.

This is in addition to the further information on the Board's [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.

Renewal of registration is now open

All registered osteopaths must renew 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. A video explaining how to renew registration online is available on the [Practitioner Services](#) page of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website. More information is available on the Board's [website](#).

Graduate applications for registration: Final-year students can apply online now

Osteopathy students who will soon complete an approved program of study can go online now to apply for general registration before they graduate.

Graduates need to be registered as an osteopath with the Board before they start practising and must meet the Board's registration requirements.

The [online graduate application](#) service on the AHPRA website helps to smooth the path from study to work by enabling students to apply for registration four to six weeks before completing their course. All applicants must send some [supporting documents](#) to AHPRA by mail to complete their application.

Australian Health Ministers' communiqués published

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has published two communiqués after its most recent meeting, one highlighting the main topics of discussion at the recent COAG Health Council meeting and a second announcing the start of the reviewer for the Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. Go to the [COAG Health Council website](#) to access this information.

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
27 October 2016