



## Communiqué

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

The 85<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 November 2016 in Melbourne. 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.

#### 2015/16 National Scheme annual report

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their 2015/16 [annual report](#) on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2016.

The Board revised five core [registration standards](#) in 2015/16. The Board informed registrants of the changes in newsletters and a webinar. A video was produced, outlining what graduates need to do to before they can register and practise as osteopaths, and the resource [Osteopathy registration: what you need to know](#) was published on the Board website.

#### More highlights of the past year include:

- **Increased registration:** As of 30 June 2016, there were 2,094 osteopaths registered across Australia, an increase of 4.7% from the previous year.
- **More registered students of osteopathy:** There were 1,759 registered osteopathy students as of 30 June 2016, an increase of 47.9% from last year.
- **More notifications received about osteopaths:** In 2015/16 there were 23 notifications received about osteopaths nationally (including data from the HPCA in NSW), an increase of 76.9% from the previous year. Notifications about osteopaths represented just 0.2% of all notifications received by AHPRA (excluding HPCA).
- **Less than 1% of all statutory offence matters related to osteopathy:** AHPRA received 12 new complaints about possible statutory offences by osteopaths in the past year, representing less than 0.9% of all statutory offence matters received in 2015/16. Almost all new matters related to the use of protected titles and advertising concerns.

For detailed data and information relating to the Board in 2015/16, please see the [2015/16 annual report](#). The report provides a nationwide snapshot of the work of AHPRA and the Boards and highlights a multi-profession approach to risk-based regulation with a clear focus on ensuring that Australians have a safe and competent health workforce.

Expanded, profession-specific summaries will be released and progressively published from early 2017.

#### Reminder: renewal of registration for 2016/17

Osteopaths have until 30 November to renew their registration on time.

Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. This is outlined in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([the National Law](#)). A [fees schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

Osteopaths, whose application for general registration is received on time or during the following one month late period, can continue practising while their application is processed.

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2016 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [Register of Osteopaths](#) and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia.

### **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  
29 November 2016