



## Communiqué

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### March 2017 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 88<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 30 March 2017 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.

#### Position statement and newsletter focusing on treating and advertising services for children

All registered osteopaths have been emailed the March [newsletter](#) from the Board which has a focus on the advertising of services to children; and also contains information on the Board's [position statement on paediatric care](#).

The Board has also sent this information to stakeholders, CPD providers and via social media.

#### Request for quote: Revised *Capabilities for Osteopathic Practice*

We are continuing our revision of the *Capabilities for Osteopathic Practice* document, following a recent preliminary consultation with targeted stakeholders.

We have published a procurement document seeking interested bidders to amend the draft revised *Capabilities for Osteopathic Practice* document, to address the feedback received in preliminary consultation prior to public consultation; and to finalise the document after public consultation.

We are interested in hearing from individuals or a team of interested bidders. The closing date is **26 May 2017**.

Further information on the scope of the work required, including deliverables and timelines, is available on our [website](#).

#### New accreditation publications about costs and international accreditation systems

Two new papers have been published about key aspects of the accreditation functions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The papers provide a new analysis of accreditation costs and an international comparison of accreditation systems for registered health professions in comparable health systems.

To read more about the papers, visit the [news item](#) on the AHPRA website.

#### COAG Health Council Meeting Communique

The Federal and state and territory Health Ministers met in Melbourne on 24 March 2017 at the [COAG Health Council](#) to discuss a range of national health issues. The meeting was chaired by the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon Jill Hennessy. AHPRA CEO attended the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Council) meeting which brings together all Health Ministers throughout Australia to provide oversight for the work of the National Accreditation and Registration Scheme (the National Scheme). AHPRA and National Boards provide a regular update to the Council on our work.

This meeting had a particular focus on the progress of amendments to the National Law which among other things will pave the way for the registration of paramedics from 2018 and a call for expressions of interest and nominations for first appointments to the National Board prior to this. Ministers also discussed further amendments to the National Law to increase the penalties for people holding out as registered practitioners.

The Council produces a Communiqué from its meeting which can be accessed on [AHPRA's website](#).

### **AHPRA online portal for complaints or concerns launches**

AHPRA has launched a new online portal to the public offering a clearer and simpler process when making a complaint or raising a concern about registered health practitioners and students. The portal is an additional channel available through the [AHPRA website](#). Alternatively, individuals can still call **1300 419 495** to make a complaint or raise a concern, while a PDF form also remains available for complainants.

The same standard applies to information and evidence regardless of whether the concern is raised online or by email, phone or form. The portal includes the requirement for a complainant to declare that the information provided in a complaint or concern is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. The online portal guides users to provide information that more readily enables proper assessment of their concerns. Automated correspondence is issued to all users of the portal, including a copy of their complaint or concern and advice that they will be contacted by a member of the AHPRA team within four days.

The portal is supported by website content about the way AHPRA manages complaints or concerns about health practitioners and students. Consultations revealed the term 'notification' is not commonly understood by the broader community. In response the term 'complaint or concern' replaces the term 'notification' in the portal and the website content.

Further enhancements will be made to the portal based on user feedback.

### **Follow AHPRA on social media**

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



### **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

11 April 2017