



Communiqué

September 2017 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 94th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 28 September 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.

Osteopathic International Alliance

The Board's Chair, Dr Nikole Grbin, presented at the annual Osteopathic International Alliance meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, on 9 September 2017.

The conference focused on osteopathy regulation, education, research and association leadership. It was held concurrently with the New Zealand and Australian associations' annual osteopathy conference.

Members who attended took the opportunity to meet with regulators from New Zealand and the United Kingdom to discuss issues of mutual interest, including common regulatory functions, outcomes and pathways for overseas-trained osteopaths; and to meet informally with attendees from osteopathic organisations and education institutions across the globe.

General Osteopathic Council – visit by CEO

On 14 September 2017, Tim Walker, CEO of the General Osteopathic Council in the UK spent a day at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Melbourne office and shared many valuable insights on health practitioner regulation. The Board spent the afternoon discussing the current issues of mutual interest in both countries. Tim also held meetings with various staff in AHPRA.

Accreditation Systems Review releases draft report

The Board considered the *Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professions - Draft Report* that was released on 4 September 2017.

The draft outlines possible reform options to streamline accreditation processes and enhance governance structures within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The aim of the report is to achieve greater cost-effectiveness through consistency and collaboration across professions and delivery of an educational foundation for a health workforce capable of responding to the evolving needs of the community.

More information is available on the COAG Health Council [website](#).

Registration fees

The Board has approved the registration fees for osteopaths for 2017/18. The Board is pleased to announce a freeze to the registration fees and so the general registration fee remains at \$376. The fee for practitioners whose principal place of practice is New South Wales is \$525.¹ The annual renewal fee will apply from 15

¹ NSW is a [co-regulatory jurisdiction](#).

September 2017 and cover the registration period from 1 December 2017 to 30 November 2018. A full fee schedule, including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW, is published on the Board's [website](#).

Graduate applications now online

Final-year students who will soon complete an approved program of study can go online now to apply for 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.

Applicants apply online by setting up an account with AHPRA with a unique and personal email address only they have access to. This allows for progress on the form to be saved and resumed as required. Applicants then complete the application form, upload their supporting documents and pay any required fees.

A short, animated video for osteopathy graduates outlines the standards that must be met to become registered and also the professional standards expected of the profession in order to stay registered. The video and supporting resources are published on the [Student registration](#) page of the Board's website.

Graduates are encouraged to find out how to use the online graduate application by accessing the information on the AHPRA website under [Graduate applications](#). There are three simple steps to registration for graduates:

1. fill out an online application for registration **four to six weeks** before completing their course.
2. upload supporting documents when completing their online application.
3. wait to be contacted by AHPRA.

Legislative changes passed to establish a new National Board for paramedicine and provide stronger protection for the public

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 has been passed by the Queensland Parliament and has received royal assent. This Bill contains amendments to the National Law that will apply in all States and Territories except Western Australia (South Australia also needs to make a regulation to give effect to the amendments). The Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia has also passed a corresponding amendment Bill (the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Amendment Bill 2017*) which will now be considered by the Legislative Council.

The passing of the Bill in Queensland marks a significant day for health practitioner regulation as these are the first legislative amendments to the National Law since the start of the National Scheme in 2010.

The changes to the National Law will enable the Paramedicine Board of Australia to be established with the appointment of inaugural board members by Health Ministers in the near future. Also, new measures that strengthen public protection will be introduced and there will be formal recognition of nursing and midwifery as two separate professions regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

To find out what the amendments include read the [news item](#) on the AHPRA website.

Decisions about proposed amendments to the National Law are made by Health Ministers and the governments of all States and Territories, with the changes progressed through the Queensland Parliament (as the host jurisdiction of the National Law), and the Western Australian Parliament. AHPRA will work with National Boards, governments, health departments, professions and consumer representatives to support the implementation of the changes to the National Law into daily operations.

While the Queensland Bill has received royal assent, commencement of many of the changes to the National Law are likely to occur in a staggered process over the coming months.

The Health Practitioner Regulation and National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017 as passed by the Queensland Parliament can be accessed the [Queensland parliament website](#).

More information on the regulation of paramedics under the National Scheme can be accessed on the [AHPRA website](#).

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. Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policy and guidelines affecting their profession.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme please refer to the information published on www.ahpra.gov.au. Alternatively, contact AHPRA by an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

Dr Nikole Grbin (Osteopath)

Chair

Osteopathy Board of Australia

10 October 2017