



Communiqué

October 2017 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 95th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 October 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.

Survey on professional behaviour

We're interested in finding out more about how osteopathy practitioners look for information about professional behaviour. Please take our [anonymous survey](#) by Wednesday **22 November 2017** to let us know.

We will use the information collected to inform our work on policies, codes and guidelines and how we communicate with practitioners about their professional obligations.

Renewal of registration is now open

All registered osteopaths must renew their registration by 30 November 2017. Under the National Law¹, 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 the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (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](#).

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

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.

¹ Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

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.

Health profession agreement

The Board approved the Health Profession Agreement (HPA) 2017-18 and will shortly publish it on its website. Under the National Law, the National Boards and (AHPRA work in partnership to implement the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), each with specific roles and responsibilities.

The HPA provides information about the Board's financial operations, outlines the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, the services AHPRA will provide to the Board to regulate the profession, and the fees payable by health practitioners.

National regulation of paramedicine moves a step closer

The national regulation of paramedicine moves a step closer with the appointment of the first Paramedicine Board of Australia.

The Health Ministers made the announcement of the nine person board at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council meeting held on 19 October 2017. Paramedicine will be the first profession to be regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) since 2012.

Registration of paramedicine is due to commence from late 2018. Paramedics will be able to register once and practise anywhere in Australia. The title 'paramedic' will also become a 'protected title' – only people registered with the Board will be able to call themselves a paramedic.

More information, including news about the [regulation of paramedics](#) and newly [appointed Board members](#), will be available on the Paramedicine Board of Australia's website which will go live soon.

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
3 November 2017