



Communiqué

November 2017 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 96th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 23 November 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.

Reminder: renewal of registration for 2017/18

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 2017 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [Register of osteopaths](#) and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia.

2016/17 National Scheme annual report

The [2016/17 AHPRA and National Boards Annual Report](#) is now available. The report highlights a multi-profession approach to risk-based regulation, with a clear focus on ensuring that the public are protected.

The following is a snapshot of the osteopathy profession in 2016/17 from the Annual Report.

- **Easy to renew:** This year saw the largest online registration renewal rate ever achieved across all 14 registered health professions. Over 98.5% of all registered health practitioners renewed online and on time, with 98.3% of osteopaths renewing online.
- **Students on the register:** As at 30 June 2017, there were 1,929 registered osteopathy students (up 9.7% from 2015/16).
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on the register:** According to a workforce survey that practitioners can choose to fill out at the time of registration/renewal, 0.7% of osteopaths are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (15 practitioners nationally).
- **Complaints received about osteopaths:** 14 notifications (complaints or concerns) were lodged with AHPRA about osteopaths in 2016/17. This equates to 1.1% of the profession.
- **Immediate action:** was taken once during the year to suspend or cancel an osteopath's registration while a matter was investigated.
- **Of the 13 matters closed about osteopaths in 2016/17:** 15.4% resulted in the Board accepting an undertaking or conditions being imposed on an osteopath's registration; 15.4% resulted in a caution or reprimand, and 69.2% resulted in no further action being taken.
- **Statutory offence complaints:** There were 252 statutory offence complaints made about osteopaths in 2016/17 (up from 12 in 2015/16). The vast majority (250) were about advertising breaches; two related to use of a protected title.
- **Active monitoring cases as at 30 June 2017:** Seven osteopaths were monitored during the year for health, performance and/or conduct.

Expanded, profession-specific summaries will be released and progressively published in late 2017.

Update on the Independent Accreditation Systems Review

In October 2016 health ministers commissioned Professor Michael Woods, former Productivity Commissioner, to carry out the Independent Accreditation Systems Review (the Review). Following public consultations Professor Woods has prepared [draft recommendations](#) for ministers. Many of the reforms in his draft report would, in their current form, require significant changes to our legislation and how we manage the accreditation of courses leading to registration as well as assessment of internationally-qualified practitioners.

In response to the draft recommendations, AHPRA and National Boards have published a joint submission to the Review on the [AHPRA website](#). In summary we propose that a more effective and efficient approach would be to make changes to the roles of AHPRA, National Boards and Accreditation Councils, rather than create new regulatory bodies with the likely cost and complexity this could create. We believe that this would deliver the changes required to support the professional health workforce required by Australia.

The joint submission includes additional responses from four participating National Boards – Chiropractic, Medical, Optometry and Psychology. The Pharmacy Board made a separate [submission](#) which is published on its [website](#).

AHPRA and National Boards look forward to the Review's final report and health ministers' response in due course. A news item including a high level summary of key aspects of the joint submission has been published 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
29 November 2017