



Communiqué

September 2018 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 105th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 25 September 2018 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, attended the annual Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) meeting in Dubai, from 27 to 29 September 2018.

The conference focused on osteopathy regulation, education, research and association leadership. It was an opportunity to meet with regulators to discuss issues of mutual interest, including common regulatory functions, emerging issues, and to meet informally with attendees from osteopathic organisations and education institutions across the globe. It was pleasing to see that a number of countries had achieved regulation, with the help of the OIA, in the intervening year.

Presentations to final year students

In September, the Chair of the Board presented to all final year osteopathy students in both Melbourne and Lismore and welcomed the opportunity to answer the student's questions about registration and advertising in particular.

Health profession agreement

The Board approved the Health Profession Agreement (HPA) 2018-19 and will soon publish the document on its [website](#). Under the Health Practitioner Regulation Law, as in force in each state and territory (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 the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), the services AHPRA will provide to the Board to regulate the profession, and the fees payable by health practitioners.

Registration fees

The Board has approved the registration fees for osteopaths for 2018/19. 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 applies from 10 September 2018 and covers the registration period from 1 December 2018 to 30 November 2019. A full fee schedule, including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW, is published on the Board's [website](#).

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

AHPRA to conduct pilot audit on advertising compliance in early 2019

A pilot audit to check health practitioner compliance with advertising requirements will be conducted by AHPRA in early 2019.

Random audits of advertising compliance will advance a risk-based approach to enforcing the National Law's² advertising requirements and facilitate compliance by all registered health practitioners who advertise their services.

The National Boards for chiropractic and dental are taking part in the pilot audit.

The pilot audit has been modelled on the well-established approach to auditing compliance with core registration standards and involves adding an extra declaration about advertising compliance when chiropractors and dental practitioners apply for renewal of registration in 2018. (The National Law enables a National Board to require any other reasonable information³ to be included with a renewal application.)

The pilot will not delay a decision on the application for renewal.

The audit will be carried out by AHPRA's Advertising Compliance Team from January 2019 and will involve a random sample of chiropractors and dental practitioners who renewed their registration in 2018.

One of the audit's main objectives is to analyse the rate of advertising compliance for those health practitioners who advertise and who have not been the subject of an advertising complaint in the past 12 months.

A pilot audit report including data analysis and recommendations will be prepared for National Boards to consider the pilot outcomes and implications for future compliance work.

For information about your advertising obligations see the advertising resources page at www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Advertising-resources.aspx.

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

8 October 2018

² The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

³ Section 107(4)(e) of the National Law