



## Communiqué

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### October 2018 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 106<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 25 October 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.

#### Renewal of registration is now open

All registered osteopaths must renew their registration by 30 November 2018. Under the National Law<sup>1</sup>, 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. 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.

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

## Update to the public *Register of practitioners* to improve consumer access to information

We are striving to give patients better access to public information about osteopathy. This helps patients make more informed decisions about their care. We regularly publish information on practitioners who have been involved in disciplinary action and now we will be adding this information to the public *Register of practitioners*.

The report by Professor Ron Paterson, *Independent review of the use of chaperones to protect patients in Australia*, included Recommendation 10 which stated that: *The public Register of practitioners include web links to published disciplinary decisions and court rulings*. The Board has decided that pursuant to section 225(p) of the National Law, the public Register of Practitioners will now include additional publicly available information about the disciplinary action taken on the registration of osteopaths.

This means AHPRA will be publishing web links on the Register of practitioners to publicly available decisions or outcomes relating to registered health practitioners whether those decisions or outcomes have been obtained by the Osteopathy Board of Australia, AHPRA, the Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA) and the Osteopathy Council of New South Wales or the Office of the Health Ombudsman (Queensland). The new information added will not include any information on the notifications we receive. This change is simply helping already publicly available information be made more accessible.

Links will not be published if:

- a suppression or non-identification order has been made
- there has been no adverse finding against the health practitioner, and/or
- an earlier adverse finding has been overturned.

We remain committed to keeping practitioners informed about these changes and we will make sure every osteopath is informed of the Board's intention to include any new links to their registration listing on the [Register of practitioners](#). The change will be rolled out incrementally from [Monday 29 October 2018](#).

### 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.

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](http://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

5 November 2018