



Communiqué

June 2019 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 113th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held by teleconference on 28 June 2019.

The Registration and Notification Committee (RNC) also met on the same day as the Board meeting.

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.

New accreditation agreement signed: Contemporary framework for public protection

The Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) signed a new five-year accreditation agreement with the Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC) starting 1 July 2019.

The accreditation agreement provides a contemporary framework for the delivery of accreditation functions by the AOAC. It is designed to address key accreditation issues including cultural safety, safety and quality, reducing regulatory burden, multi-profession collaboration to meet evolving healthcare needs, and strengthen accountability and transparency. The new accreditation agreement will provide the public with greater transparency and accountability and will contribute to work across the National Scheme to improve public protection.

The agreement also includes principles for funding and fee setting and new key performance indicators to track progress on priority issues. For further information read the media release on AHPRA's [website](#).

Fake practitioners face jail and hefty fines

From 1 July 2019, the National Law became tougher on people who pretend to be a registered health practitioner. The penalty for anyone prosecuted by the AHPRA under the National Law¹ for these offences now includes bigger fines and the prospect of prison time.

AHPRA has successfully prosecuted multiple cases where people were falsely claiming to be registered practitioners when they were not.

Under the National Law, anyone who calls themselves any of the 'protected titles', such as 'osteopath' 'medical practitioner' or 'psychologist', must be registered with the corresponding National Board.

The amendments mean that offenders will be faced with the possibility of a maximum term of three years imprisonment per offence. They also face an increase in the maximum fines from \$30,000 to \$60,000 per offence for an individual and from \$60,000 to \$120,000 per offence for a corporate entity.

It is an offence to use one of the protected titles, and it is also an offence to knowingly or recklessly claim to be a registered practitioner when you're not or use symbols or language that may lead a reasonable person to believe that an individual is a registered health practitioner or is qualified to practise in a health profession. These offences are known as 'holding out.'

Read the full media release on the [AHPRA website](#).

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

New video gives a practitioner's experience of a notification

AHPRA and the Board know that making or being the subject of a notification can be confusing and stressful. We are working to support health consumers and practitioners by improving the way we communicate about notifications.

As part of this work, AHPRA and National Boards released the [latest video](#) in our '[Let's talk about it](#)' series. It tells one practitioner's experience of the process, aiming to help other practitioners who have a notification made about them.

AHPRA has gathered feedback from notifiers and practitioners on their experience of the notifications process. After over 80 interviews and more than 5,000 survey responses, a small number of consistent themes have emerged. These themes are informing the content of our video series.

This latest video, *A notification was made about me: A practitioner's experience*, is a powerful first-hand account of a practitioner's experience engaging with AHPRA and a National Board. It contains a clear message for other health practitioners about seeking support early in the notification process.

Registered health practitioners and their support networks will be encouraged to use this new resource when they are involved in the notifications process.

Osteopathy practitioners can view the video on the [AHPRA website](#), where practitioners can find additional information on understanding the notifications experience, and on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo channels](#).

Read the full media release on the [AHPRA website](#).

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to receive up to date 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 and resources about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners on their website at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au. Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies 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

15 July 2019