



Communiqué

July 2019 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 114th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 July 2019 in Melbourne.

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.

Osteopathy clinical advisers

In the coming months, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) will advertise clinical advisor roles seeking applications from experienced practitioners to provide contracting services from the osteopathy profession.

The positions will be available in any location and be flexible in nature. The clinical advisor will contribute to a risk-based approach by providing AHPRA staff with clinical input into notification, compliance and registration matters.

Role duties include:

- providing clinical input to AHPRA staff on the management of cases
- reviewing briefing information sent to external parties
- reviewing responses from practitioners, and
- helping AHPRA staff understand and interpret clinical material.

Keep an eye out for these positions which will be advertised in the next edition of the Board newsletter, on the [AHPRA careers website](#), [Seek](#) and on social media.

Advertising your regulated health service

To protect consumers, the National Law¹ includes provisions about advertising regulated health services. The Board has recently included a [list of resources on the Board website](#) that you might find helpful for understanding and meeting your advertising obligations.

Advertising is actions by people or businesses to draw attention to their services. The ways people and businesses can promote services are almost limitless and include all forms of printed and electronic media.

If you are advertising a regulated health service, your advertising must not:

- **be false, misleading or deceptive**, or likely to be misleading or deceptive
- **offer a gift, discount or other inducement**, unless the terms and conditions of the offer are also stated
- **use testimonials or purported testimonials** about the service or business
- **create an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment**, or
- directly or indirectly **encourage the indiscriminate or unnecessary use of regulated health services**.

If you're not sure you're meeting your obligations, or if you've been contacted by AHPRA about your

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

advertising there are [steps you can follow](#) to make sure you comply with your professional and legal obligations.

For further details see AHPRA's [advertising resources](#) on their website.

Cultural safety training provider announced

PricewaterhouseCoopers Indigenous Consulting Pty Limited (PIC) in partnership with Griffith University First Peoples Health Unit will deliver cultural safety training to Board and committee members as well as Australian Health Regulation Agency (AHPRA) staff. This appointment is the outcome of a competitive tender process. Cultural safety training is an important first step to ensure that AHPRA and the Boards are working to help health practitioners nationally understand their own connection to culture and unconscious biases, and how these are likely to influence their work.

AHPRA CEO Mr Martin Fletcher said the training is an important milestone and is part of the agency's commitment to support health equity for all Australians, which was publicly made by AHPRA and 36 other signatories in the National Scheme's [Statement of intent](#) last year.

'One of our strategic priorities is helping to embed cultural safety into the health system through our work with over 740,000 registered health practitioners across Australia.

'We want to be a regulator who deeply understands cultural safety and what it means for our work and we want to partner with others to build a culturally safe registered health practitioner workforce across Australia,' Mr Fletcher said.

National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group member and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia Chair, Ms Renee Owen, said everyone has a part to play to achieve health equity.

'We all have a responsibility to understand cultural safety so that we can work to eliminate racism from the health system and enable health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This training is an important step towards ensuring that the regulation of health practitioners is culturally safe', Ms Owen said.

This unique Aboriginal-led collaboration between PwC's Indigenous Consulting, Griffith University's First Peoples Health Unit and the [National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy Group](#) will provide a world class, bespoke cultural safety training program supporting the necessary culture transformation of Australia's health professions.

The training to be provided by PIC in partnership with Griffith University First Peoples Health Unit will be rolled out from the end of 2019.

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
2 August 2019