

Communiqué

August 2019 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 115th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 30 August 2019 in Perth. 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.

Registrant engagement breakfast in Perth

The Board hosted an information sharing breakfast for osteopaths at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Perth on 30 August 2019. This was a valuable opportunity for the Board to engage with osteopaths and hear about the issues that are of most interest to them, including audit and mandatory notifications. Staff from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) joined Board members to present information and answer questions.

Osteopathy clinical advisers

AHPRA is currently advertising osteopathy clinical advisor [roles](#).

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.

Important consultations now open – feedback invited

Three public consultations are now open asking for people to have their say on revised guidance to help practitioners and others understand their mandatory notification obligations, understand their obligations when advertising a regulated health service and to support a responsive and risk-based approach to supervised practice

The Board is conducting the consultations alongside other National Boards and AHPRA on:

- revised *Guidelines: Mandatory notifications about registered health practitioners* and *Guidelines: Mandatory notifications about health students*
- revised *Guidelines on advertising regulated health services*, and
- a proposed *Supervised practice framework*.

The Board invites osteopaths and its stakeholders to provide feedback to these important public consultations. To ensure everyone has the chance to respond the closing dates for public consultation have been staggered as follows:

- Public consultation on the mandatory notifications guidelines will close on 6 November 2019.
- Public consultation on the advertising guidelines will close on 26 November 2019.
- Public consultation on the supervised practice framework will close on 17 December 2019.

The consultation papers are available on the [Consultations page](#) of the Board's website.

Getting to know your colleague – information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice profession

A Member of the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board \(ATSIHPBA\)](#) recently gave a update to the Osteopathy Board at its August meeting about the ATSIHPBA, the profession and its practitioners.

The [ATSIHPBA](#) want to help the osteopathy profession understand the value that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners can bring to Australian healthcare to make it culturally safe and help close the gap. Below are some simple facts about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and their profession to help osteopaths know more.

The ATSIHPBA would like to continue to work with AHPRA and the osteopathy profession to help spread the word about the culturally safe workforce which is qualified, competent, registered and ready to go to work in both clinical and non-clinical roles.

There are some things that osteopathy can do to help:

- **Ask a question:** ask your health service, employer or other team members, 'how many Aboriginal Health Practitioners do we employ?' or 'Did you know we could make our practice more culturally safe by employing an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner, and do our bit towards closing the gap?'
- **Make them a priority:** Prioritise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health workforce agenda.
- **Share the message:** Distribute the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice [profession brochures](#) explaining their role to employers.

Engaging the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce to work in partnership with osteopaths is a key opportunity to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

If you would like to find out more about the profession please contact Executive Officer, Jill Humphreys at jill.humphreys@ahpra.gov.au or on (03) 8708 9066.

New practitioner experience video launched

Keep perspective; and seek help. That's the message in the the [latest video](#) released by AHPRA and National Boards as part of the '[Let's talk about it](#)' series – *Putting it in perspective: A practitioner's notifications experience*.

The video is the second practitioner experience video published this year by AHPRA and National Boards and provides a health practitioner's first-hand account of the notification process.

AHPRA CEO Mr Martin Fletcher said the video series aims to share practitioners' experiences, recognising what are common reactions, while proactively encouraging them to focus on likely outcomes and seek support.

'Many practitioners have told us that they would have benefited greatly from hearing the voice of others who had gone through this experience — and come out the other side. They have also told us that when they are the subject of a notification, they immediately think they will lose their registration and their livelihood – that it's a catastrophe.'

'We understand that people may feel this way. However, our data show a different story. While we have a clear focus on patient safety, many notifications end without the need for regulatory action and are often closed following initial assessment, without the need for an extended investigation.' Mr Fletcher said.

In the video, a surgeon describes his feelings of guilt and anxiety after a poor patient outcome and the notification that followed. As time went on, his worries increased, and he found it difficult to maintain a realistic perspective about what was likely to occur. He reflects on the value of speaking with family and friends, as well as the ongoing support of his GP and a psychologist.

Read the full [media release](#).

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

13 September 2019