



Communiqué

Eighteenth Meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia 5 May 2011

The eighteenth meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia was held on 5 May 2011 in Melbourne. The Board is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's last meeting. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Consultations

There are three consultations coming up where interested parties are encouraged to provide comment and feedback to the Board. These are:

1. *Draft Registration Standards for Limited Registration in the Public Interest and Limited Registration for Post-Graduate Training and Supervised Practice*
2. *Draft Revised Continuing Professional Development Guidelines, and*
3. *Draft Guidelines for Infection Control.*

The Board has begun preliminary consultations on these first two documents and is expecting to open these up to external feedback and general consultation around late June early July. The Board agreed to a consultation plan about *Draft Guidelines for Infection Control*, and will be open in coming months.

Osteopaths and the title 'Dr'

The Osteopathy Board of Australia has amended the Register of Practitioners so every registered osteopath in New South Wales and Western Australia will be displayed on the Register with the title 'Dr', as is possible for osteopaths based in other states and territories.

'Dr' is a courtesy title and its appropriate use is explained in the guidelines adopted by all National Boards on the *Advertising of Regulated Health Services* published at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au under Codes and Guidelines.

Registration renewal due 30 June 2011 for New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia

Osteopaths whose primary place of practice is in New South Wales, Tasmania or Western Australia are reminded to renew their registration by 30 June 2011. These osteopaths will also have to renew their registration again by 30 November 2011 to bring them into line with the new national renewal cycle, as discussed below.

AHPRA will send a renewal reminder letter to these osteopaths four to eight weeks before their registration expiry date. AHPRA will also send email reminders to all practitioners who have provided their email addresses. Practitioners are encouraged to provide their email address to AHPRA (by updating their contact details online). This will enable the Board to send e-newsletters and other

important information for the profession, and AHPRA to contact practitioners about important registration or renewal information.

Please be aware that for this year only the registration period for practitioners in New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia renewing by 30 June 2011 will be for less than 12 months, to bring these osteopaths into the new national registration renewal cycle. This means that they will need to renew their registration by 30 June 2011 for five months only and renew again by 30 November 2011. The fee payable will vary pro-rata accordingly and will be detailed on the registration renewal reminder from AHPRA.

From November 2011, all osteopaths with general registration will be due to renew by 30 November each year.

Check your registration due date and update your contact details

Practitioners can check when their registration is due by checking their registration status on the National Register at www.ahpra.gov.au. The easiest way to search is by name and profession. Follow the prompts and then click on 'view details' to see your registration details.

If you have changed address, or were registered in more than one state before the start of the National Scheme (1 July 2010 in NSW or 18 October in WA), it is important to check that your address details with AHPRA are up to date.

You can change your address online if you have received your ID and login. Go to "Health Practitioner login" on the top right of the [Board's home page](#).

If you have not received your ID and login please use the [online enquiry form](#) and select 'User ID' from the drop-down menu for category of enquiry, or call AHPRA on 1300 419 495 and ask our team for your user ID and login details. A request for change of address details form is also published on the website (Form CHDT-00) and can be found at www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Common-Application-Forms.aspx.

Student Register

The Board noted that there are now more than 80,000 registered students who are part of the National Scheme.

The Student Register was established through data provided by education providers to AHPRA, and all osteopathy students will now be registered from the first year of their course. Under the National Law, the Student Register is not public.

The role of the Osteopathy Board of Australia in relation to students is limited to student health impairment matters or when there is a criminal conviction of a serious nature, either of which may adversely impact on public safety. The Board has no role to play in the academic progress or conduct of osteopathy students, which continues to be a core responsibility of educational providers.

More detail on student registration and the implications for students and education providers is published at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/Student-Registrations.aspx.

Robert Fendall
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia
17 May 2011