



Communiqué

26 July 2012 Meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 35th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia was held in Melbourne on 26 July 2012. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

The Board publishes this communiqué on its website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in the work of the Board.

Health Ministers Announce New Appointments and Reappointments

On 30 July 2012 the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) announced new appointments and reappointments of Chairs, practitioner and community members to fill vacancies arising across ten National Boards for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). The vacancies arose as a result of the expiry of 105 terms of the inaugural appointments to these national boards (as made by the Ministerial Council in 2009) and were advertised in the national press on 11 February 2012. The following members have been reappointed/appointed to the Osteopathy Board for the next term from 30 August 2012:

Dr Robert Fendall	Reappointed as Chair and a practitioner member from New South Wales*
Dr Natalie Rutsche	Reappointed as a practitioner member from Queensland
Dr Amanda Heyes	Reappointed as a practitioner member from Western Australia
Adjunct Professor Philip Tehan	Reappointed as a practitioner member from Victoria
Dr Nikole Grbin	Appointed as a practitioner member from South Australia
Dr Benjamin Field	Appointed as a practitioner member from the Australian Capital Territory
Mrs Liz Benson	Appointed as a community member from Western Australia
Ms Helga (Liza) Newby	Appointed as a community member from Victoria (rural)
Ms Helen Egan	Reappointed as a community member from Northern Territory

* one year appointment

Information for osteopathy students on general registration

The Chair of the Board recently presented at the Australian Osteopathic Association (AOA) seminar titled "Transition to Practice" for final year students in the osteopathy programs at Victorian universities as part of a combined information session with the AOA, Board and insurance providers. This is part of a general

program by the Board to raise awareness of the requirements for registration and how to commence the process early for final year students.

Forthcoming consultation

The *Draft guidelines on sexual and professional boundaries* will be sent to targeted stakeholders for preliminary consultation in August 2012 before opening the consultation up to the public. The Board will keep the profession informed about progress of the consultations through communiqués.

Satisfying recency of practice and returning to practice

In August, the Board will publish an information sheet to provide information to osteopaths returning to practice after an absence, or if they have not been able to satisfy the recency requirements of the Board's *Recency of practice registration standard*. The Board will also published a template plan for professional development and re-entry to practice which makes provision for the elements that should be included in a plan for professional development and re-entry to practice.

These documents will be located on the Board's website under the Registration Standards tab and the Codes and Guidelines tab in the FAQ's and fact sheets section: [FAQ and fact sheets](#)

Registration fees for 2012/13

The Board's registration fees for 2012-2013 are set out on the Board's website at [Registration/Fees](#)

NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction and the NSW fee has a National Board component and a NSW component. The Osteopathy Council of New South Wales and the Health Care Complaints Commission work in tandem to assess and manage concerns about osteopaths' conduct, health and performance. In other states and territories, this is done by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Board. The notional rebate reflects the NSW government contribution to the Health Care Complaints Commission.

Review of registration standards, guidelines and codes

One of the Board's functions under the National Law is to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the medical profession. The Board must consult widely about any standards, codes or guidelines that it develops. Registration standards are developed by the Board and must be approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council). All these registration standards commenced on 1 July 2010 and are due for review at least every three years. The Board develops and approves codes and guidelines.

The Osteopathy Board of Australia, in conjunction with all the National Boards, will be starting a process to review their registration standards and the codes and guidelines that are due for review, over the next few months. A plan is being developed to co-ordinate the requests to stakeholders common across professions.

Dr Robert Fendall
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia
1 August 2012