



Communiqué

December 2016 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 86th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 15 December 2016 in Melbourne. 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.

Accredited programs of study

One of the objectives of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) is to facilitate the provision of high quality education and training of health practitioners. The National Law sets out the role of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority, the Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC), regarding the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the osteopathy profession.

The AOAC is responsible for accrediting individual programs of study after it is reasonably satisfied:

- the program of study meets an accreditation standard, or
- it substantially meets an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time frame.

The AOAC can also refuse to accredit a program of study. The AOAC must give the Board a report after it decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions). After being given an accreditation report, the Board may approve, or refuse to approve, the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

Programs of study approved by the Board are published on the Board's [website](#).

The Board made the following decisions at the December meeting.

Approval of programs of study at Southern Cross University

Under section 49(1) of the National Law, the Board decided to:

- continue to approve the Bachelor of Clinical Science (Double Major in Osteopathic Studies and Human Structure and Function)/Master of Osteopathic Medicine (the currently accredited program) at Southern Cross University as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in the osteopathy profession; which is the existing program of study, and
- approve for the purposes of student registration, the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences (Osteopathic Studies)/Master of Osteopathic Medicine at Southern Cross University, which is a new program of study commencing in early 2017.

Quarterly registration data

The Board recently published its [quarterly data](#) profiling Australia's osteopathy registrants.

As at September 2016, there were a total of 2,099 registered osteopaths comprising of the following number of registrants according to registration type:

- 2,020 – general registration
- 11 – provisional registration, and
- 68 – non-practising registration.

Guidance issues on endorsements about scheduled medicines

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) has recently endorsed *Guidance for National Boards: Applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of endorsements in relation to scheduled medicines under section 14 of the National Law*¹ (the Guidance).

The Guidance is designed to be used by National Boards when preparing applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of an endorsement for scheduled medicines for their profession.

Read more on the [AHPRA website](#).

Keeping in touch with the Board

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au. Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policy and guidelines affecting their profession.

Dr Nikole Grbin (Osteopath)
Chair
[Osteopathy Board of Australia](#)

19 December 2016