



Communiqué

February 2019 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 109th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 1 March 2019 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.

The Registration and Notification Committee (RNC) meets on the same day as the Board meetings.

National Boards and AHPRA host Research Summit

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) 2019 Research Summit took place on 27 February 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Summit centred on asking how research can be harnessed to strengthen regulation and enhance patient safety to contribute to improved health outcomes.

Led by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards, the all-day Research Summit hosted 17 speakers and drew more than 300 participants from National and State/Territory Board and Committee members, AHPRA staff, co-regulatory bodies, representatives from accreditation authorities and key partners.

With the theme 'Optimising research for regulatory effectiveness', the Research Summit explored the National Scheme's evolving approaches to risk assessment, lessons from research into notifications, and future opportunities to utilise smart data. At the heart of discussions was asking how we can use data and research to improve regulatory processes and ultimately contribute to safer care for patients.

From the University of Toronto, Professor Zubin Austin's stirring keynote address highlighted that competency assessment has emerged as a dominant issue for regulators, educators and employers worldwide; Professor Austin called for more attention on notions of teamwork, emotional intelligence, and genuine practitioner engagement as important concepts in defining and evaluating competency.

[Read more](#) about the Summit.

'Let's talk about it' videos launched

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has [launched a series of new videos](#) to support the public and registered health practitioners as they go through the notification process.

The video series, called 'Let's talk about it', explains what happens when concerns are raised with the regulator, provides easy to follow information about the notifications process and addresses common questions, so consumers and health practitioners know what to expect when they interact with AHPRA and National Boards.

The videos are:

[A notification has been made about me](#) features five health practitioners who work within the scheme, directed at health practitioners who have had a notification made about them.

[I have a concern, am I in the right place?](#) is targeted at members of the public who have a concern but aren't yet sure whether AHPRA is the right place for them to raise it.

[I have raised a concern with AHPRA](#) provides information for individuals who have just raised a concern with AHPRA.

The videos sit alongside other written resources available on our website, see: www.ahpra.gov.au/Notifications.

Practitioners can view the videos on the AHPRA and National Board websites, or from their [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#) channel, and can join the conversation by following AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) and use the hashtag #letstalkaboutit and tag @AHPRA.

Legislative amendments on mandatory reporting and fake practitioners

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (Qld) (the Bill) has now been passed by the Queensland Parliament. The amendments include revisions to the mandatory reporting requirements for treating practitioners and an extension of sanctions for statutory offences.

The changes to the National Law¹ intend to support registered practitioners to seek help for a health issue (including mental health issues). They will also increase the penalties (including the introduction of custodial sentences) for some offences under the National Law, including where a person holds themselves out to be a registered health practitioner when they are not.

AHPRA and National Boards will now work to implement these amendments. This will require working closely with professional bodies, employers and state and territory health departments to help spread the message that practitioners should be supported to seek help about their health issues.

The passing of the Bill in Queensland marks the second set of legislative amendments to the National Law since the start of the National Scheme² in 2010.

When commenced, the amendments will apply in all states and territories except Western Australia, where mandatory reporting requirements will not change.

Practitioners can read about the amendments on the [AHPRA website](#) or the Bill on the [Queensland Legislation website](#).

Annual report and quarterly registration data released

The Osteopathy Board's 2017/18 annual report is now available to [download](#).

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. You can find the latest report and other statistics [here](#). Follow AHPRA on social media.

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive 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 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 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.

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

² The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Dr Nikole Grbin (Osteopath)
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia
6 March 2019