



Communiqué

Thirteenth Meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia 28 October 2010

The thirteenth meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia was held on 28 October 2010 in Melbourne.

Graduate registration

The Board has published information about a new streamlined graduate registration process and application forms on the Board's website at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au or on an information page on the AHPRA [website](#). The process allows students graduating in 2010 to pre-apply for registration now, so AHPRA can begin the registration process, pending confirmation from education providers of successful graduation.

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act, (the National Law) as enacted in participating jurisdictions, there are additional requirements that graduates must meet before they are registered. These include criminal history checks and identity verification. Some of these processes involve external agencies and can take time. Graduates must also meet the registration standards set by National Boards, including related to English language skills, before being eligible for registration. By pre-applying, students can support a smooth transition from graduation to registration and entering the workforce.

Assessment of overseas qualified osteopaths

The Board continued to work with the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council about the implementation of its new process for assessment of overseas-qualified osteopaths. More information about the process is expected to be available soon.

Continuing Professional Development

As previously advised, the Board has developed a phased approach to introducing mandatory CPD requirements. Renewal of registration after 30 June 2012 will require a declaration that the osteopath has complied with the Board's CPD requirements in the 12 months preceding the renewal date. The Board is working to prepare for the first period of mandatory CPD which will progressively apply to renewals from 30 June 2011.

Notification to lapsed registrants

The Board considered the process for communicating with osteopaths whose registration has lapsed under the National Law. There are serious consequences for any osteopath whose registration has lapsed if they continue to practise. These include potential prosecution and fines for use of the title osteopath and/or holding out as an osteopath, and no longer being covered by professional indemnity insurance. In addition, osteopaths whose registration lapses will have to reapply to be registered, and

will have to pay both an application and an annual registration fee. The Board encourages all osteopaths to renew their registration on time to avoid any gaps in practice.

Registered osteopaths can check the due date of their registration on the National Register at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au. Practitioners whose registration is due at the end of November should by now have received a letter from AHPRA with the relevant application form. If you are due to renew your registration at the end of this month and you have not received your letter from AHPRA to remind you to renew, contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Communication

Board members presented to the Australian Osteopathic Association National Osteopathy Conference on 15 October 2010 in Melbourne. The Board welcomed the opportunity to interact with members of the osteopathy profession about issues of interest to them. The Board will be publishing further information on its website to respond to queries raised at the Conference. The Board looks forward to continuing its engagement with the profession in the future.

Robert Fendall
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia
5 November 2010