



Communiqué

24 August 2012 Meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 36th meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia was held in Canberra on 24 August 2012 at the ACT Office of AHPRA. This provided an opportunity for the Board to meet with the Manager of the ACT Office and discuss issues and the administration of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

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.

Review of accreditation authority arrangements

Section 253 (4) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each State and Territory (the National Law) provides that the National Boards established for the health professions must, not later than three years after the commencement day (July 2013), review the arrangements established by Health Ministers, for the exercise of accreditation functions for the health profession. The review must include wide-ranging public consultation (Section 253 (5)).

The Osteopathy Board has received a submission from its accreditation authority, the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC), and is commencing preliminary consultation on the review of accreditation arrangements.

Key stakeholders have been invited to provide initial feedback in the preliminary consultation process. Due to the specific nature of this review, the preliminary consultation period is only brief and intended to provide advance notice of the Osteopathy Board's proposal to continue the accreditation arrangements with ANZOC. It will be followed by a longer public consultation process in which all stakeholders and interested practitioners are welcome to participate.

Stakeholder meetings

The Chair and Executive Officer of the Board held a number of teleconference meetings with the Executives of a number of stakeholder groups in the last month, including: ANZOC' the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand' the Australian Osteopathic Association; and the Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia. The Board welcomes the opportunity to discuss emerging issues and ideas regarding the osteopathy profession.

Information for osteopathy students on general registration

The Chair of the Board has presented information on regulation of the osteopathy profession to final year students at Victoria University, RMIT University and Southern Cross University in August. This is part of an annual program by the Board to raise awareness of the requirements for registration and practical steps to getting registered for the first time prior to commencing practice as an osteopath. A comprehensive campaign will be launched in September to support the Grad Online function, which allows graduating students to register with the Board for the first time online.

Health Professions Agreement

The Osteopathy Board of Australia and AHPRA increased public access to financial information about the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

In the interests of transparency and accountability, the Board and AHPRA have for the first time published the *Health Profession Agreement* that outlines the services that AHPRA will provide to the Board in 2012/13.

Under the National Law, the Board and AHPRA work in partnership to implement the National Scheme, each with specific roles, powers and responsibilities set down in the National Law.

The published agreement is available under the *About* tab of the Board's website.

Social media preliminary consultation

The Osteopathy Board, in conjunction with other National Boards, has agreed to release a preliminary consultation paper on a *Draft social media policy* for consideration of all key stakeholders. This policy is being developed as an interim step pending the development of and consultation on revised *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services*, and ultimately the content may be included in the revised Guidelines. After feedback has been received from the preliminary consultation, it is anticipated that the draft social media policy will be released for public consultation October/November 2012. If you are interested in this issue, please check the Board's website at this time.

Quarterly data

The Board publishes quarterly updates on registration data. This includes information about types of registration held, principal place of practice, endorsements, registrant age and gender, is published on the Board's website under the *About* tab.

Newsletter and updates from the Board

The Board released its latest e-newsletter to all registered osteopaths in August, and it can also be viewed on the Board website under the *News* tab.

To ensure that future editions of the e-newsletter reach you, please check your contact details and update them if necessary. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

To update your contact details, go to www.ahpra.gov.au, click online services, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

Dr Robert Fendall (Osteopath)
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia
31 August 2012