

Media release

18 May 2011

Osteopaths urged to check registration expiry date and renew on time

The Osteopathy Board of Australia today urged osteopaths across all states and territories to check their registration expiry date and renew on time, particularly those due to renew by 30 June 2011 – their first time under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Osteopaths can check their registration expiry date on the National Register of Osteopaths, published online at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au. The best way to search the Register is by name and profession.

Board Chair Robert Fendall encouraged osteopaths whose registration expires on 30 June 2011, about a third of the profession, to renew on time and online.

“In the National Scheme, individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Osteopathy Board of Australia – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible,” Dr Fendall said.

He said AHPRA was implementing an intensive communication campaign to support the renewal process. This will include sending several reminder emails and letters to individual osteopaths.

Dr Fendall encouraged osteopaths to provide AHPRA with their email address to allow for easy and efficient direct communication with them.

Osteopaths due to renew by 30 June 2011 are in New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania. They will renew for five months and their registration will be valid until 30 November 2011.

From 30 November 2011, the renewal date for all osteopaths in Australia will be aligned and registration renewal will be due by 30 November each year.

Dr Fendall reminded the profession that there were significant consequences for individual osteopaths who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, osteopaths who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Osteopaths.

Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise osteopathy in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

“Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear: renew on time and online,” Dr Fendall said.

Background

There are some simple steps osteopaths can follow for easy and straightforward renewal of registration:

1. **Check your contact details** – make sure your contact details, including email and mobile telephone, are correct and current. This will allow AHPRA to send you renewal reminders and to contact you easily
2. **Check your registration expiry date** – practitioners can view their expiry date on the National Register of Osteopaths, accessible at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au and enter their last name and profession to search
3. **Watch for the notice to renew registration** – a notice to renew registration, including the unique contact number (user ID) supporting online renewal, will be mailed to each practitioner about eight weeks before registration expires
4. **Use online services** for quick and easy renewal of registration – most practitioners can renew registration online using the unique contact number (user ID) provided on the registration renewal notice sent by AHPRA. Online renewal of registration usually takes between two and 48 hours, depending on the method of payment chosen by the practitioner and whether the application contains any adverse declarations.

Osteopaths who do not have their unique contact number can get it by submitting an online enquiry form – selecting “User ID” as the category of enquiry or calling 1300 419 495. Practitioners can also mail their renewal application to AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, in their capital city.

Osteopaths can check that their application has been received at the Board’s website at www.osteopathyboard.gov.au. Practitioners whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed. The listing on the National Register of Osteopaths is evidence for employers that a practitioner is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed.

Osteopaths who forget to renew their registration by 30 June 2011, or within the one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. They are not able to practise in the profession until their registration application has been granted.

Renew online – Register on time

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200