



Communiqué

30 January 2014 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 53rd meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 30 January 2014 by teleconference. This communiqué outlines the issues discussed and decisions made by the Board at its meeting and other points of interest. The Board publishes this communiqué on its website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders.

Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) and international regulators' forum

The Chair and Executive Officer of the Board attended the Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) annual meeting and conference in Austin, Texas, on 11 and 12 January 2014. The Chair gave a presentation titled: *Advertising and marketing claims* as part of the registration and regulation forum.

The OIA's report: *Osteopathy and osteopathic medicine - A global view of practice, patients, education and the contribution to healthcare delivery* was launched at this conference, and is available online at the OIA's [website](#).

New professional standards for practitioners

The National Board will be publishing revised and new standards, codes and guidelines in 2014.

The first lot of documents will be published in February. They are the:

- revised *Advertising guidelines*
- revised Mandatory reporting guidelines
- revised *Code of conduct*, and
- new *Social media policy*.

These guidelines, policy and code will come in to effect in March 2014, and all registered health practitioners will need to meet these new standards.

Additional information will also be published in February, explaining the similarities and differences between the current and new standards.

The National Board consulted widely last year on the draft versions of these documents (and continues to consult on other important documents, see the *Consultations* page on the website).

Much work has also gone in to making sure that the format and language used in the documents meet plain language requirements, to make it easier to access and understand the important information in them.

More information about the revised registration standards, codes and guidelines will be published on the AHPRA and National Boards' websites in February.

The Osteopathy Board will also focus on providing further information to osteopaths on these documents in its next newsletter.

Renewal of registration – removal from register

Osteopaths are responsible for renewing their registration on time. If a practitioner did not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2013, their name has been removed from the [national register of practitioners](#). Their registration has lapsed and they cannot practise osteopathy in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. Contact AHPRA immediately by phoning 1300 419 495 if you are unsure about your registration status.

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 Robert Fendall (Osteopath)
Chair
5 February 2014