



## Communiqué

### 27 June 2013 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 27 June 2013 in Melbourne. 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.

#### Competent authority pathway

The Board is planning to introduce a second pathway for overseas trained osteopaths: a competent authority pathway in the fourth quarter of 2013. Currently the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC) administers a four stage [standard pathway](#) for assessing overseas trained practitioners for eligibility for general registration.

The Board consulted widely on the proposed new competent authority pathway which will be a more streamlined process for assessing qualifications of certain osteopaths from overseas prior to registration by the Board. The Board considered the feedback and has decided to undertake a further four week period of public consultation commencing mid-July on a revised *Framework: pathways for registration of overseas-trained osteopaths*.

The reason for the further consultation is the Board's decision to modify its original proposal for the new pathway. The proposed revised pathway includes a period of six months supervised practice with provisional registration before general registration. The *Guidelines for Supervision of Osteopaths* and associated forms will also be revised for consultation to reflect this proposed change.

The Board will keep the profession and the community informed at the end of the consultation about implementation dates. Submissions will generally be published on the website, unless confidentiality has been specifically requested.

Once implemented, the Board is planning to conduct an evaluation of the supervision requirement of the competent authority pathway at the end of the first year or so of operation.

#### Extension of the term of the agreement for the accreditation function

The Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC) is the independent authority exercising accreditation functions assigned by the Ministerial Council under the National Law.

As previously announced in December 2012, the Board has decided that ANZOC should continue to exercise accreditation functions for the osteopathy profession for a five year period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2018. The extension of the existing agreement has recently been signed by ANZOC and AHPRA, on behalf of the Board.

The Board compliments ANZOC on the important work it undertakes in the National Accreditation and Registration Scheme. The Executive of both bodies have enjoyed a very productive relationship and the Board looks forward to continuing to work together in the future on the issues of mutual interest.

The development of policy in regard to the proposed competent authority pathway (above) is a recent example of where the Board and ANZOC have worked collaboratively.

### Guides on notifications (complaints)

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has published new guides for health practitioners and the community about how notifications are managed in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The *Guide for practitioners* and a series of information sheets aim to explain to practitioners what happens when AHPRA receives a notification on behalf of a National Board. The information complements the direct correspondence that individuals receive if a notification is made about them.

AHPRA has also developed a guide for the community about making a complaint (or notification) about a health practitioner. This *Guide for notifiers: Do you have a concern about a health practitioner? A guide for people raising a concern* will be a focus of review by the newly-established Community Reference Group for AHPRA and the National Boards.

Both guides are published online on the AHPRA [website](#) in a revised section on complaints and notifications. AHPRA collaborated with the professional associations for practitioners registered in the National Scheme to develop the guide for practitioners.

### Consultations

The preliminary consultation period for the common registration standards - *English Language Skills Registration Standard* and the *Criminal History Registration Standard* has ended. Responses are being reviewed, and an opportunity for public consultation will be available later in the year. These documents are mostly common across National Boards and consultation will be coordinated across all the Boards.

### 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 [Osteopathy Board of Australia](#). Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news, registration data, newsletters, and updates on policy and guidelines affecting their profession.

Dr Robert Fendall (Osteopath)  
Chair

5 July 2013