



## Communique

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### **Sixth meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia 24 March 2010**

The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. At its sixth meeting, held in Melbourne, the Board made decisions about a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

#### **Communication**

The Board had previously decided not to have State and Territory Boards under the national scheme. However, the Board is keen to retain the valuable expertise of existing State and Territory Board members in the national registration scheme and has written to existing State and Territory Podiatrists Registration Boards, inviting the Chair and Board members to express interest in participating on panels and working groups that the National Board may establish under the National Law. The Board has written separately to the NSW Podiatrists Registration Board given the co-regulatory scheme that will apply in NSW, thanking the Chair and members for their contribution to establishing the national registration scheme.

#### **April letter to registered podiatrists**

The Podiatry Board of Australia will be writing to every registered podiatrist in late April, to support the transition of all registrants into the national scheme. The letter will explain each practitioner's registration type from 1 July 2010 and explain what podiatrists have to do to ensure a safe transition to the national scheme. The letter will detail the information that will appear on the online national Register of Podiatrists.

The Board made a range of decisions about this transitioning process. In general, podiatrists will transition to the type of registration that best matches their current registration. While the name of some registration categories will change, the Board has no intention to change any podiatrist's scope of practice. Please check the registration type allocated to you in the April letter and provide feedback to AHPRA if you believe there are any errors.

The Board is urging all podiatrists to make sure the contact details held by their current State or Territory Board are accurate and up to date before 30 June 2010.

#### **Conditions, undertakings and reprimands on the Register**

The National Law requires the Board to publish conditions imposed and undertakings accepted from podiatrists on the Register of Podiatrists. It also allows the Board to decide not to publicly record a condition imposed or an undertaking accepted when the practitioner has a health impairment, if it is necessary to protect the practitioner's privacy and there is not an overriding public interest for the condition or the details of the undertaking to be recorded. The Board will consider developing a policy on this issue, consistent with the National Law.

## **Registration Fees**

The Board set national registration fees for 2010-2011 and once these have been confirmed with AHPRA, will communicate these to the profession later in April, with the transition mail-out.

## **Update on codes and guidelines**

The Board's consultation paper on codes and guidelines was released on 10 March 2010 and comments are due on 7 April 2010. The consultation paper seeks feedback on:

- A code of conduct for the podiatry profession
- Guidelines on mandatory reporting
- Guidelines on advertising
- Guidelines on continuing professional development
- Guidelines for podiatry assistants
- Guidelines for podiatrists with blood-borne viruses
- Guidelines for infection control
- Guidelines for scheduled medicines endorsements
- Guidelines for professional indemnity insurance.

The Board encourages all interested podiatrists to provide feedback on the proposed codes and guidelines.

## **Update on registration standards**

The Board is expecting to hear the outcomes of Ministerial Council's consideration of the Board's proposed registration standards very soon. The final standards and information about specialist registration will be published on the Board's website at [www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au) soon after Health Ministers' decision.

Regular updates and FAQs will be published on the National Board website ([www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au)).