



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 26 February 2014

Update on the review of registration standards and guidelines

The Board, together with the other National Boards recently published the following revised and new common codes and guidelines, which will come into effect in mid-March 2014:

- *revised Guidelines for advertising regulated health services*
- *revised Guidelines for mandatory notifications*
- *revised Code of conduct, and*
- *new Social media policy.*

Registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons need to familiarise themselves with these documents to ensure their practice meets the Podiatry Board's expectations when they come into effect.

The guidelines and policy are common across all National Boards and apply to all registered health practitioners. Most National Boards have a shared code of conduct while some have different codes.

The Board reviewed *the Code of conduct*, the *Advertising guidelines* and the *Mandatory notifications guidelines* as part of a scheduled review three years into the National Scheme. These are the first set of revised documents to be released this year, with more to come later in 2014. The *Social media policy* is new and has been developed to address emerging social media issues which are not covered in the *Advertising guidelines* and *Code of conduct*.

National Boards consulted widely late last year on the draft versions of the new documents.

Further information is available on the [Board's website](#).

Accreditation and approval of podiatry programs of study

One of the objectives of the National Law is to facilitate the provision of high quality education and training of health practitioners. The National Law sets out the roles of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority, ANZPAC, in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession.

ANZPAC is responsible for accrediting individual programs of study after it is reasonably satisfied that the program of study:

- meets an approved accreditation standard, or
- substantially meets an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the accreditation will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time.

ANZPAC can also refuse to accredit a program of study. ANZPAC is required to give the Board a report after it decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions). After being given an

The Board is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

accreditation report, the Board may approve, or refuse to approve, the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration or endorsement. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

[Approval of program of study at Central Queensland University](#)

The Board has approved until 30 January 2017 the Bachelor of Podiatry Practice (Pass & Hons) program of study offered by Central Queensland University as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration as a podiatrist in Australia.

[Amendments to the Queensland Health \(Drugs and Poisons\) Regulation 1996](#)

The Board has received correspondence from the Queensland Minister for Health, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg advising that he has approved amendments to the Queensland Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 (regulations) to enable suitably qualified podiatrists holding an endorsement for scheduled medicines to prescribe medicines from the *National podiatry scheduled medicines list*.

The proposed amendments have not been enacted as yet and podiatrists must ensure that they continue to comply with the current regulations until such time as the amended regulations come into force.

[Snapshot of the registered podiatry workforce](#)

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia's podiatry workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants.

The Board's December 2013 data update, which was published on the Board's website in January 2014 shows that there are 3997 registered podiatry practitioners in Australia, an increase of 88 since the last update in October 2013. Of these, 3,902 hold general registration as a podiatrist, 25 hold general and specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon and 70 hold non-practising registration.

[Further information](#)

Further information about the Board can be found on the [Board's website](#) and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting their profession.

Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
6 March 2014