



## Communiqué

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### Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 25 June 2014

#### Newsletter

The Board recently released its latest newsletter, which was emailed to all registrants who have provided AHPRA with their email address.

The newsletter is published on the Board's [website](#) and topics include information about the Board's current public consultations; the Board's revised code of conduct, advertising and mandatory notifications guidelines and new social media policy; the review of entry-level accreditation standards and competency standards for the podiatry profession; and the three year review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

You are encouraged to read the newsletter to help you keep up to date on the work of the Board and AHPRA.

#### Public consultation on registration standards and guidelines closes 14 July 2014

As part of a scheduled review of the registration standards that have been in place since 1 July 2010, the Board is currently consulting on the following proposed revised registration standards and guidelines:

- Professional indemnity insurance registration standard
- Continuing professional development registration standard and related guidelines
- Recency of practice registration standard and related guideline
- Guidelines for infection control

The Board has not proposed major changes and the draft standards are broadly similar to the current registration standards. The proposed changes reflect feedback from registrants and other stakeholders and the Board has also considered its experience with the standards over the past four years of operating in the National Scheme. The language in the revised registration standards has been simplified and the standards restructured to make them clearer.

The consultation papers are published under [Current consultations](#) on the Board's website.

Written submissions are required by **close of business on Monday, 14 July 2014**. The Board encourages you to provide feedback on the proposed standards and guidelines.

#### 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:

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

- 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 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.

Programs of study approved by the Board are published under [Accreditation](#) on the Board's website.

#### Approval of programs of study at the University of Western Sydney

The Board approved the following programs of study offered by the University of Western Sydney (UWS):

- Approved until 30 June 2019 the Bachelor of Health Science (Pass & Hons)/ Master of Podiatric Medicine program of study offered by UWS as providing:
  - a qualification for general registration as a podiatrist; and
  - a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.
- Approved until 30 June 2019 the Master of Podiatric Medicine program of study offered by UWS as providing:
  - a qualification for general registration as a podiatrist; and
  - a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines, with the approval limited to students who have successfully completed the subject *Clinical Pharmacology 400981*.

#### Approval of program of study at Charles Sturt University

The Board approved until 30 May 2019 the Bachelor of Podiatry (Pass & Hons) program of study offered by Charles Sturt University as providing a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.

#### Queensland – new arrangements for handling notifications from 1 July 2014

From 1 July 2014 a new law comes in to effect in Queensland, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*.

From this date, all complaints about Queensland health practitioners will be received by the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) who will either manage the matters or refer them to the relevant National Board to manage.

Complaints that were made to AHPRA or National Boards before 1 July 2014 will generally continue to be managed by AHPRA on behalf of National Boards. However, under the new law the Office of the Health Ombudsman can request that a matter be referred to them to be managed. If this were to happen, AHPRA will inform both the notifier and the practitioner who is the subject of the notification.

For information about the Office of the Health Ombudsman please go to [www.oho.qld.gov.au](http://www.oho.qld.gov.au) or call 133 646 (133 OHO).

#### 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**  
2 July 2014