

# Communiqué

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## Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 29 May 2013

This communiqué highlights key issues from the last meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board). At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

### Review of registration standards, guidelines and codes

The Board's registration standards, guidelines and codes that have been in place since the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) on 1 July 2010 are currently being reviewed.

The consultation process provides an opportunity for registrants and other stakeholders to provide feedback on these documents. The consultation documents are published on the Board's website at [www.podiatryboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx)

The Board, together with other National Boards will soon be commencing public consultation on the following two registration standards that are common, or largely common, to all National Boards:

- English Language Skills Registration Standard (largely common), and
- Criminal History Registration Standard (common).

Other standards and guidelines, including the Board's *Recency of practice registration standard*; *Continuing professional development registration standard* and guidelines; and *Endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard* and guidelines; *Infection control guidelines*; and *Guidelines for podiatrists working with podiatric assistants* will be published for consultation later in the year and you will be notified when they are released.

### 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, the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (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 approval 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.

### [Approval of program of study at Auckland University of Technology](#)

The Board approved until 19 April 2018 the accredited Bachelor of Health Science (Podiatry) program of study at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT University) as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration as a podiatrist in Australia.

### **Community Reference Group**

The [Community Reference Group](#) (CRG) is having its first meeting in Melbourne this week, which is another exciting first for the National Scheme. Made up of members from the community, all of them new to the National Scheme, the CRG will be able to advise AHPRA and the National Boards on how to engage better with communities, particularly with non-practitioners.

### **Further information**

Further information about the Board can be found on the Board's website at [www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au) and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on Policy and Guidelines affecting their profession.

Cathy Loughry  
Chair  
Podiatry Board of Australia

5 June 2013