



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 14 September 2012

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

NRAS combined meeting

The Board held its meeting at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre together with the 13 other National Boards who are part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS).

The meeting coincided with the third annual NRAS conference attended by all National Boards, the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA leadership teams, representatives of NSW Councils, accreditation authorities, Health Workforce Australia and regulatory colleagues from New Zealand.

The purpose of this annual meeting was to take stock, share ideas and innovations, identify future challenges and identify actions to make needed change to the national scheme.

Stakeholder forum in Brisbane

The Board is hosting a forum for registrants in Brisbane on the evening of Thursday 11 October 2012. This will provide an opportunity for Queensland podiatrists to informally meet members of the Board and discuss issues relating to the registration and regulation of podiatrists under the National Law.

All Queensland podiatrists who have provided their email address to AHPRA have been emailed an invitation to the forum and the Board hopes that as many podiatrists as possible will be able to attend.

The details are:

Date: Thursday 11 October 2012

Time: 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
Kelvin Grove Campus

The Atrium
Level 4, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Cnr Blamey St & Musk Ave
Kelvin Grove

Light refreshments will be served.

Please confirm your attendance by email to forum@podiatryboard.gov.au by 27 Sept 2012.

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. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

Approval of programs of study at La Trobe University

The Board approved until 30 June 2013 the following programs of study offered by La Trobe University as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in the podiatry profession:

- Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Podiatric Practice
- Bachelor of Health Science with Honours/Master of Podiatric Practice and
- Master of Podiatric Practice.

Approval of programs of study at the University of Western Sydney

The Board approved until 30 June 2014 the following programs of study offered by the University of Western Sydney as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in the podiatry profession:

- Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Podiatric Medicine
- Bachelor of Health Science with Honours/Master of Podiatric Medicine and
- Master of Podiatric Medicine.

Review of accreditation arrangements

The National Boards for the first 10 professions to enter the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme are currently reviewing their accreditation arrangements.

Health Ministers assigned accreditation functions for these National Boards to external accreditation authorities. ANZPAC was assigned the accreditation functions for the Podiatry Board of Australia.

The National Law requires the National Boards to review the arrangements for the exercise of accreditation functions by June 2013. The review must include wide-ranging public consultation.

The Podiatry Board of Australia, together with the Chiropractic, Medical, Optometry, Osteopathy, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, and Psychology Boards of Australia has commenced public consultation on the accreditation review.

The Board's consultation paper and a report from ANZPAC are published on the Board's website at www.podiatryboard.gov.au under current consultations.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback in the public consultation process by close of business, **Friday 2 November 2012**.

Renewal of registration

Registered podiatrists around Australia are required to renew their registration by 30 November 2012.

Practitioners will soon receive important renewal information from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Practitioners who have provided AHPRA with their email address will receive email reminders as well as letters reminding them to renew their registration. The Board encourages practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email address. This can easily be done online and there is a link at the bottom of both the Board and AHPRA websites to *Update Contact Details*.

The Board encourages practitioners to renew early and online. If a practitioner has not applied to renew their registration within one month after their registration expiry date, their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise podiatry in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. Under the National Law, they must be removed from the Register of Podiatrists.

CPD Reminder

Practitioners are required to regularly participate in continuing professional development (CPD) that is relevant to their scope of practice. Podiatrists with general registration are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of CPD per year as well as hold current a CPR certificate which includes management of anaphylaxis and use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED).

Podiatric surgeons must complete an additional 20 hours of CPD per year related to this scope of practice. Podiatrists with an endorsement for scheduled medicines must complete an additional 10 hours of CPD per year related to the use of scheduled medicines in podiatry practice.

The Board's CPD requirements must be met by the time practitioners renew their registration, which is due on 30 November 2012.

When podiatrists renew their registration, they are required to declare on the renewal of registration form whether during the preceding registration period they have met the Board's CPD requirements. The Board may refuse to renew a practitioner's registration if the CPD requirements have not been met.

The Board's requirements for CPD are set out in the *Continuing Professional Development Registration Standard*, which is published on the Board's website under the Registration Standards tab. The Board's *Guidelines for continuing professional development* and FAQ's for CPD are also on the Board's website under the Policies, Codes and Guidelines tab.

The Board encourages practitioners to familiarise themselves with these documents which clearly explain the Board's CPD requirements. Practitioners need to ensure that they are progressing towards meeting these requirements by the time they renew their registration, if they have not already met them.

Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on the Board's website at 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

20 September 2012