

## Communiqué

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December 2019

The Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) meets each month to consider and decide on matters related to its regulatory functions under the National Law<sup>1</sup> and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and matters regarding the National Scheme.

The Board held its December 2019 meeting in Melbourne.

### Endorsement for scheduled medicines – example portfolio published

One of the requirements of Pathway B of the Board's registration standard for endorsement for scheduled medicines is the completion of a period of supervised practice, during which you will progressively develop a portfolio of evidence.

The purpose of the portfolio is to demonstrate to the Board that you have the required prescribing competencies to have your registration endorsed for scheduled medicines and that you have met the Board's requirements for supervised practice. It must include clinical studies and a reflective journal and is submitted with your application for endorsement for assessment.

As part of our ongoing commitment to support practitioners to understand the requirements for endorsement, the Board has published an example of a portfolio of evidence on the [Endorsement for scheduled medicines](#) page of our website.

The sample portfolio, which includes an example of an evidence matrix and log of activities, as well as two clinical studies and some reflective pieces is intended to provide guidance only and is not a representation of a completed portfolio.

You'll also find two animated videos to help you understand the application process for an endorsement for scheduled medicines under Pathway B and the role of a mentor on our [website](#) as well as the registration standard, associated guidelines, FAQ and relevant templates.

### Renewal of registration – late applications

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who did not renew their registration by 30 November 2019 are now in the late renewal period and have until 31 December to apply. Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. A [fees schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons, whose application for general and/or specialist registration is received during the one-month late period, can continue practising while their application is processed.

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2019 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [Register of podiatrists](#), and/or the Board's specialist register in the case of podiatric surgeons, and will not be able to practise in Australia.

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<sup>1</sup> Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

## **Board appointed as skilled migration assessing authority for podiatry**

The Podiatry Board of Australia has recently been approved as the skilled migration assessing authority for Podiatrists – [ANZSCO 252611 (Podiatrist)] under the Australian Government's Skilled Migration Program.

The Board has published a dedicated [Assessment for migration](#) page on its website which provides information about the evidence that the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs will accept as evidence of a suitable skills assessment for immigration purposes.

## **Podiatry regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2018/19**

A profession-specific statistical summary that covers the work of the Board over the 12 months to 30 June 2019 is now available online. The summary draws on data from the 2018/19 annual report of Ahpra and the National Boards and provides a snapshot of the profession as at 30 June 2019.

It includes the number of registered podiatrists and a breakdown by gender and age; the number of complaints or concerns received and closed during the year and the types and sources of those complaints; the number of practitioners monitored; and the number of any tribunals, panels or appeals.

It also includes outcomes of practitioner audits; and the number and type of criminal offence complaints made. Profession-specific data tables are also available for downloading.

To access the profession specific summary and data table visit the [Board's 2018/19 summary](#).

Information about the 2018/19 annual report of Ahpra and the National Boards can be found on the [Ahpra website](#).

## **Mandatory notifications - health practitioners encouraged to seek advice about their own health**

Ahpra and the National Boards have published new resources to support practitioners to understand changes to the National Law about mandatory notifications requirements that are due to take effect in early 2020. A news item about the new resources is on the [Ahpra website](#).

The resources aim to encourage practitioners to seek the health care they need by removing fears that they'll be subject of an unnecessary mandatory notification and provide greater clarity to treating practitioners on when they need to make a mandatory notification.

The new resources are available on a hub on the [Ahpra website](#) and include a resource kit with two videos, social media posts and graphics that can be shared. Additional resources will be added to the hub in advance of the changes coming into effect in early 2020, including the revised Guidelines on mandatory notifications.

## **New resources help practitioners check for acceptable evidence in health advertising**

New resources to help podiatrists, podiatric surgeons and other advertisers understand if claims made in advertising are supported by accepted evidence is now available.

You can access the new information via a link on the [advertising resources page](#) on the Board's website.

## **Social media guide for health practitioners**

A new guide to help registered health practitioners understand and meet their obligations when using social media has been published on the [Board's website](#) and in the Advertising resources section of [Ahpra's website](#).

The guide reminds practitioners that when interacting online, they should maintain professional standards and be aware of the implications of their actions, just as when they interact in person.

The guide does not stop practitioners from engaging online or via social media; instead, it encourages practitioners to act ethically and professionally in any setting.

To help practitioners meet their obligations, the guide also outlines some common pitfalls practitioners may encounter when using social media.

Community trust in registered health practitioners is essential. Whether an online activity can be viewed by the public or is limited to a specific group of people, health practitioners have a responsibility to behave ethically and to maintain professional standards, as in all professional circumstances.

In using social media, health practitioners should be aware of their obligations under the National Law, their Board's Code of conduct, the Advertising guidelines and other relevant legislation, such as privacy legislation.

### **Newsletter from the Board**

The Board has released its latest newsletter. Read it on the Board's *Newsletters* [page](#).

### **Quarterly registration data**

The Board's quarterly registration data to 30 September 2019 is published on its website. Read the latest report [here](#).

### **Updated logos for Ahpra and National Boards**

Ahpra and the National Boards have updated their logos. Information about the new Podiatry Board and Ahpra logos can be found on the [Board's website](#).

### **Further information**

The Board publishes a range of information for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons on its [website](#) and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting the podiatry profession.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Scheme, please refer to the information published on [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au). Alternatively, contact Ahpra by an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

### **Follow AHPRA on social media**

Connect with Ahpra on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



### **Season's Greetings**

On behalf of the Board I would like to wish all members of the podiatry profession and our stakeholders a safe and happy festive season.

A/Prof Cylie Williams  
Chair  
**Podiatry Board of Australia**  
December 2019