



Communiqué

Ninth meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia 23 June 2010

At its ninth meeting, held in Melbourne, the Board met for the last time before the commencement of the national scheme on Thursday, 1 July. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

Communication

The Board is committed to continuing to provide regular updates to its stakeholders about the work of the Board. We publish Communiqués after each Board meeting and are interested in receiving feedback on any issues of interest. The main source of information about regulation and accreditation of our profession will continue to be the Board's website published at www.podiatryboard.gov.au. The following codes and guidelines are available:

- Code of conduct for the podiatry profession
- Guidelines on advertising
- Guidelines on mandatory reporting
- Guidelines for the endorsement of scheduled medicines
- Guidelines on infection control
- Guidelines for podiatrists with blood-borne viruses
- Guidelines on continuing professional development
- Guidelines for podiatrists working with podiatric assistants in podiatry practice

All podiatrists are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the codes and guidelines and the Board's Registration Standards on:

- Criminal history
- English language skills
- Professional indemnity insurance
- Continuing professional development
- Recency of practice
- Endorsement for scheduled medicines.

FAQs will be updated regularly on a range of topics including continuing professional development and professional indemnity insurance.

AHPRA is aware that some Health Departments and large employers provide professional indemnity insurance on behalf of registered practitioners. AHPRA is liaising with these organisations to make it as easy as possible for registered podiatrists to meet the requirements set by the Board under the National Law.

Transition to the new scheme

The Board has sent letters to all registered podiatrists in recent weeks about the commencement of the national scheme from 1 July 2010. The Board encouraged podiatrists to ensure that they were registered with

The Podiatry Board of Australia is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. Australian Health Practitioners Registration Agency [AHPRA], is also established under this law to provide administrative assistance and to support the National Boards in exercising their functions.

their previous State or Territory registration authority before 1 July to make sure that their registration transitioned smoothly to the new scheme.

All new applicants for registration from 1 July must meet all of the new requirements for registration, including criminal history checking and English language skills.

National Call Centre - Ongoing

The National Call continues to provide information to registrants across all professions. A number of themes have been identified for registrants in this process. For Podiatry, the issues of Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements under the National Law and Continuing Professional Development were the focus of most queries to the call centre. The call centre will continue to operate after 1 July to ensure that registrants and those wishing to register have access to all the information they need.

Registrants are encouraged to check the website first for answers to frequently asked questions (www.podiatryboard.gov.au).

The call centre number is: **1300 088 590**

Registration Fees

The Board set national registration fees for 2010-2011 and these are listed on the Board's website.

Thanks

The Podiatry Board of Australia thanks all of those organisations and individuals who have given considered and useful feedback and otherwise assisted the Board in developing its standards, codes and guidelines.

A national scheme or registration and accreditation for all health professionals aims to ensure that only practitioners who have the qualifications and experience to provide safe care to the Australian community are registered to practise. The scheme also aims to reduce red tape for registered podiatrists who can register once and practise across Australia.

Regular updates and FAQs will be published on the National Board website (www.podiatryboard.gov.au).