



Communiqué

Seventh meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia 28 April 2010

The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. At its seventh meeting, held in Melbourne, the Board made decisions about a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

Panellists and Working Party Participants

The Board would like to reiterate its thanks to existing State and Territory Board members and continues to seek their interest in participating on panels and working groups that the National Board may establish under the National Law. As previously communicated to State and Territory Podiatry Regulation Boards, the National Board decided not to retain State and Territory Boards after 1 July 2010 but the work of the panels and working groups remains to be conducted in those jurisdictions. Interested current Board members are encouraged to forward an expression of interest to the Podiatry Board of Australia's Executive Officer, Jill Humphreys, at jill.humphreys@ahpra.gov.au

April letter to registered podiatrists

The Podiatry Board of Australia has written to every registered podiatrist, to support the transition of all registrants into the national scheme. The letter explains each practitioner's registration type from 1 July 2010 and explains what podiatrists have to do to ensure a safe transition to the national scheme. The letter will detail the information that will appear on the online national Register of Podiatrists.

The Board made a range of decisions about this transitioning process. In general, podiatrists will transition to the type of registration that best matches their current registration. While the name of some registration categories will change, the Board has no intention to change any podiatrist's scope of practice. Please check the registration type allocated to you in the April letter and provide feedback to AHPRA if you believe there are any errors. Any podiatrist who has not received a letter from AHPRA should contact ...?their State or Territory Board ([Nicole, is this right?](#)).

The Board is urging all podiatrists to make sure the contact details held by their current State or Territory Board are accurate and up to date before 30 June 2010.

Conditions, undertakings and reprimands on the Register

The National Law requires the Board to publish conditions imposed and undertakings accepted from podiatrists on the Register of Podiatrists. It also allows the Board to decide not to publicly record a condition imposed or an undertaking accepted when the practitioner has a health impairment, if it is necessary to protect the practitioner's privacy and there is not an overriding public interest for the condition or the details of the undertaking to be recorded.

The Board has developed a policy on this issue, consistent with the National Law. From 1 July, registrants with health conditions will have recorded on the public register that the practitioner has "conditions related to their health".

Registration Fees

The communication of the national registration fees for 2010-2011 has been delayed until June.

Update on codes and guidelines

The Board's consultation paper on codes and guidelines was released in March 2010. Useful feedback was received from many individuals and stakeholders. The feedback has been analysed and incorporated where possible. The consultation paper sought feedback on:

- A code of conduct for the podiatry profession
- Guidelines on mandatory reporting
- Guidelines on advertising
- Guidelines on continuing professional development
- Guidelines for podiatrists working with podiatry assistants in podiatry practice
- Guidelines for podiatrists with blood-borne viruses
- Guidelines for infection control
- Guidelines for scheduled medicines endorsements
- Guidelines for professional indemnity insurance.

The Board will finalise the documents and publish them after the May meeting. The Board wishes to thank all those who took the time and effort to make a submission to the consultation paper.

Update on registration standards

The Board is pleased to advise that the Ministerial Council approved all of the Board's proposed registration standards. The final standards and information about specialist registration has been published on the Board's website at www.podiatryboard.gov.au.

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