

# Communiqué

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## **18th meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 29 April 2011**

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.

### **Australasian Podiatry Council (APodC) Conference 2011**

Members of the Board recently attended the APodC Conference that was held in Melbourne in the last week of April 2011. The Board welcomed the opportunity to meet a number of podiatrists and students, and provide information and answer questions on national registration.

Many of the questions and concerns raised by podiatrists at the conference related to the Board's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements. The Board was encouraged that, after taking registrants through the Board's Guidelines on CPD on the Board's website, registrants realised that meeting the Board's CPD requirements will not be as difficult as they initially believed. See below for more information on the Board's CPD requirements.

### **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Podiatrists have until 30 November 2011 to meet the Board's CPD requirements. The Board encourages all registered podiatrists to familiarise themselves with these requirements and ensure they are on track to meet them by the due date.

During the period of transition to the national registration scheme, from 1 July 2010 all practising podiatrists will have 17 months to complete the CPD requirements set out in the CPD registration Standard.

From 30 November 2011 all practising podiatrists will need to comply with the CPD requirements annually.

The following documents, available on the Board's website ([www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au)), provide detailed information about the Board's CPD requirements:

- Continuing Professional Development Registration Standard
- Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development
- FAQ: Continuing Professional Development for Podiatrists.

The Guidelines for CPD explain the types of activities that qualify as CPD and a sample 'Activity Log' template is provided as well as other information to assist podiatrists to establish and maintain an appropriate CPD portfolio.

## Renewal of registration: check your renewal date

The Board recommends that all registered podiatrists check their registration renewal date on the National Register of Practitioners, as a number of podiatrists are due to renew their registration by 30 June 2011. This will particularly affect podiatrists in NSW.

AHPRA will be sending email and mail reminders about renewal and podiatrists are encouraged to renew online (wherever possible).

Registration renewal dates are being aligned nationally for podiatrists to 30 November. In the first cycle of renewals under the national scheme, the first renewal for a podiatrist may have been for more or less than 12 months to bring them into the new registration cycle and fees are paid on a pro rata basis accordingly.

Those podiatrists who have not already done so are encouraged to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through [online services](#) on the AHPRA website. This will allow you to receive important information, such as registration information via email.

## Student Register

A national Student Register is now in place, meeting a core requirement of the National Law. The Student Register was established through data provided by education providers to AHPRA, and all podiatry students will now be registered from the first year of their course. Under the National Law, the Student Register is not public.

The role of the Podiatry Board of Australia in relation to students is limited to student health impairment matters or when there is a criminal conviction of a serious nature, either of which may adversely impact on public safety. The Board has no role to play in the academic progress or conduct of podiatry students, which continues to be a core responsibility of educational providers.

The definition of education providers under the National Law is broad. It includes education providers delivering Board approved programs of study leading to registration. It also includes education providers, health services and other organisations or individuals that provide clinical experience placements for persons who are not enrolled in a Board approved program of study leading to registration and do not hold registration in Australia in the profession in which they are undertaking the clinical experience placement. This includes students from overseas.

More detail on student registration and the implications for students and education providers is published at [www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Student-Registrations.aspx](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Student-Registrations.aspx).

## New look AHPRA website

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has launched the first phase of its new look website ([www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)) as part of a program of work to improve its services to health practitioners and the community.

The new look AHPRA homepage has been reshaped in response to practitioner feedback and is the first step in upgrading the website for AHPRA and the 10 National Boards to make important information about the National Scheme clear and easier to find.

The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (National Law)* as in force in each state and territory.

Key features of the improved AHPRA website are:

- fresh new design which highlights key information and the National Registers
- powerful new search engine to help locate relevant information across the AHPRA and National Board websites
- easy links to support on-line practitioner renewals and
- access to new online services including tracking of renewal applications.

### AHPRA service improvements

AHPRA has recently put in place a number of improvements to better serve the public, in direct response to feedback.

These include:

- introducing a new function where large scale employers can bulk check the registration status of employees online
- boosting resources for customer service teams and changing processes so that phone calls are now being managed directly by experienced staff in local AHPRA offices wherever possible
- giving practitioners the option to 'not renew' their registration, so they do not get sent renewal reminders
- providing pop-out wallet sized cards with annual registration certificates confirming a practitioner has renewed

AHPRA has also scheduled a number of future improvements including:

- work is underway to enable practitioners and employers to check the progress of registration applications (this service is already available for registration renewals)
- establishing capacity for registrants to print a copy of their registration certificate online and
- on-line graduating student registration applications.

### 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.

The Board encourages practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through [online services](#). This will allow practitioners to receive important information, such as registration reminders and updates for the profession, via email.

Jason Warnock  
Chair  
Podiatry Board of Australia

10 May 2011