

Communiqué

20th meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 29 June 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.

Accreditation and Approval of University of South Australia Podiatry Courses

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 accreditation authority in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession.

The Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC) is the accreditation authority responsible for accrediting education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession. Accreditation Standards are used to assess whether a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, provide persons who complete the program with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to practise the profession.

The National Law provides that ANZPAC may accredit a program of study if, after assessing the program, ANZPAC is reasonably satisfied that the program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, meet an approved accreditation standard for the podiatry profession. If ANZPAC decides to accredit a program of study it must provide the Board with a report about its accreditation of the program and the Board may approve or refuse to approve the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration in the podiatry profession.

The Board considered an ANZPAC accreditation report on the Podiatry Programs at the University of South Australia and approved the Bachelor of Podiatry (Pass & Hons) four year degree program of the School of Health Sciences, University of South Australia, as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration in the podiatry profession for a period of five years, taking into account the considerations identified by ANZPAC in their report.

Registration fees

The National Law requires the Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to enter a Health Profession Agreement that provides for the following:

- the services to be provided by the Agency to the Board to enable it to carry out its functions;
- the fees payable by health practitioners; and
- the annual budget of the Board.

The Board has approved the Health Professions Agreement with AHPRA and its budget for the 2011/12 year and set the registration fees for 2011/2012, limiting fee increases within a Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate of 3.3%.

The Board has also reinstated a fee for late renewal of registration from 2011-12 (this had been suspended for the first year of the National Scheme). The late fee will apply to practitioners who apply to renew during the one month 'late period' built into the National Law and will be charged at 25% of the renewal fee, recognising the additional costs to AHPRA of managing late renewals. It will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

The Board also approved a Fast Track application fee. The fast track application was introduced this year to assist practitioners whose registration has lapsed but who wish to remain in practice. This fast-track process is open for one month after the end of the late period. The fast track fee will be 50% of the normal application fee for registration and will be payable in addition to the application fee.

The Board's fees for 2011/2012 have been published on the Board's website, together with a media release regarding the new fees.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Board reminds podiatrists that they must meet the Board's CPD requirements by 30 November 2011.

In addition to the 20 hours of CPD that must be completed complete each year, podiatrists must also hold a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate that includes management of anaphylaxis and use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from an Approved Training Organisation.

Podiatrists need to check with the training provider who is offering the course as to how long the different components remain current. For example, the anaphylaxis and AED training courses may be current for three years, yet the CPR component current for one year and an annual requirement. In this case the podiatrist could undertake annual CPR training and the other elements when they are due.

Useful information regarding the CPD requirements can be found in the following documents on the Board's website www.podiatryboard.gov.au:

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

Audit of compliance with Registration Standards

AHPRA has commenced a project to implement an audit of compliance process with the mandatory Registration Standards across all ten National Boards. A communication strategy will be a central part of the audit of compliance project to key stakeholders. Further information for key stakeholders will be published in upcoming months.

Renewal of Registrations

All podiatrists with general registration will have applied for registration or renewed his/her registration under the national scheme, via an AHPRA office or the website. Podiatrists from New South Wales were required to renew their registration prior to 30 June 2011, for the period to 30 November 2011. All podiatrists in Australia have one annual renewal date from now on, which is 30 November each year.

Note: Podiatrists with a principle place of practice in New South Wales, who were required to renew registration prior to 30 June 2011, will need to renew again with all other registered podiatrists on 30 November this year.

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.

Jason Warnock
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia

12 July 2011

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