

# Communiqué

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## Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 27 July 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.

### Publication of registrant data

At 30 June 2011, there were just over 3400 podiatrists registered in Australia, and of these 412 are new registrants.

The Board will be soon start publishing registrant data on its website which will include data on the number of registrants in each state and territory.

### Updated Website

The Board has updated its website to make it easier to navigate and find important information.

The Board's new website features clearer menus and intuitive architecture, better access to online services and more information tailored to the podiatry profession. Information about the National Scheme and links to AHPRA are also accessible.

### Graduate Applications

Podiatry students who plan to start working as podiatrists in Australia after graduating are encouraged to apply for registration early. Applying early can help make registration smoother so that new graduates can start work sooner.

Students who have completed an approved program of study in mid-2011 can find information on the AHPRA website [www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx) about applying for registration.

There are five simple steps to graduate registration:

1. Students can apply for registration 4 to 6 weeks before completing their course
2. Applicants fill out an online application (if eligible) or download an application form. All applications require some documents to be sent to AHPRA by mail.
3. Education providers advise AHPRA when applicants are eligible to graduate
4. AHPRA finalises assessment, confirms registration, publishes new graduates' names on the Register of Practitioners and sends out registration certificates
5. New graduates are registered and eligible to start working as soon as their name is published on the Register of Practitioners.

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

## Change to who can certify documents for registration

Copies of documents in support of an application for registration, or other purpose required by the National Law, must be certified as true copies of the original documents.

The Board has approved an amended policy for certifying documents which reflects the list of persons authorised by the Commonwealth Attorney-General to certify documents. As the requirements for certification of documents will now be aligned with the Commonwealth requirements which are more broadly known and publicised, it is expected that the amended policy will assist in reducing the number of incomplete applications for registration. The amended policy will soon be available on the AHPRA website.

The list authorised by the Commonwealth Attorney-General includes some of the health professions regulated under the National Law. AHPRA will write to the Commonwealth Attorney-General seeking amendments to the approved list to also include the following health professions that are regulated under the National Law: Podiatrists, Osteopaths, Midwives and all Dental Practitioners.

## 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 reminds podiatrists to make sure the contact details they have given to AHPRA are up to date and include a current email address in order to receive important updates, such as renewal reminders.

Jason Warnock  
Chair  
Podiatry Board of Australia

10 August 2011