

Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 22 February 2012

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.

Specialist registration – change to registration fees

Podiatric surgeons may hold:

- specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon as well as general registration as a podiatrist or
- specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon only. These practitioners will have a restricted scope of practice, limiting the practitioner to practice that is relevant to the scope of practice of podiatric surgery.

Currently, a podiatric surgeon who holds both specialist registration and general registration is required to pay an annual registration fee for general registration as well as an annual fee for specialist registration.

The Board has agreed to the following changes to its fee structure.

- When a registrant renews their registration only one fee is payable, even if they hold more than one type of registration.
- The fee for specialist registration will be the same as the fee for general registration.
- No application fee will be charged to add specialist registration to general registration.

The result of these changes is that a practitioner who holds both specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon and general registration as a podiatrist will pay the same fee as a practitioner who holds specialist registration only or general registration only. The new fee structure is in line with the other National Boards who have specialist registration under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The changes will take effect on 1 July 2012 and will be applied to practitioners the next time they renew their registration.

Panel members

Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law), as in force in each state and territory, the Board may establish panels to undertake hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters.

Panels are made up of members chosen from a list of persons approved by the Board to be appointed as panel members. The Board will soon be calling for Expressions of Interest from podiatrists and members of the

community to be appointed to the Board's list. The approved persons for panel appointments will be called upon if required to sit on a panel.

Persons already on the approved list will be contacted by the Board soon.

Registration applications now open for four more professions

Registration applications are now open for practitioners in the four professions joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) in July.

From 1 July 2012, the following professionals must be registered with their National Board to practise anywhere in Australia:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner
- Chinese medicine practitioner¹
- medical radiation practitioner and
- occupational therapist.

Registration application forms for practitioners in these professions who intend to practise after 1 July are published on each National Board website through www.ahpra.gov.au.

The National Board encourages podiatrists to help spread this important message and refer anyone with questions to the website.

Forum for podiatrists in Hobart

As previously advised the Board is hosting a forum for podiatrists in Hobart on the evening of Friday 23 March 2012 at the AHPRA Hobart office, 12th Floor, AMP Building, Cnr Elizabeth & Collins Street, Hobart.

It will commence at 7:00pm to allow time for registrants in other parts of Tasmania to travel to Hobart.

The forum will provide an opportunity for Tasmanian podiatrists to meet members of the Board and discuss issues relating to the registration and regulation of podiatrists under the National Law.

Tasmanian registrants have been sent an invitation from the Board to the forum via email and the Board is pleased that a number of podiatrists have already confirmed that they will be attending the forum. The Board hopes that as many Tasmanian podiatrists as possible will be able to attend the Board's forum and encourages them to RSVP to the email invitation as soon as possible.

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

29 February 2012

¹ Including Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, oriental medicine practitioners and Chinese herbal dispensers