



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 25 May 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.

The Board held its meeting in Western Australia at the AHPRA Perth office.

Forum for podiatrists in Perth

Whilst in Perth, the Board held a forum for the profession on the evening of 24 May 2012, which was attended by a number of local podiatrists.

The Board welcomed the opportunity to meet Western Australian podiatrists and discuss issues relating to the registration and regulation of podiatrists under the National Law.

Accreditation Standards for Podiatric Surgery Programs of Study

Under the National Law, the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC) is responsible for developing accreditation standards for the approval of the Board. 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 Board has approval from the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) for specialist registration for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery and in October 2010 the Board requested ANZPAC to develop accreditation standards for podiatric surgery programs of study. As required by section 46 of the National Law, in developing the accreditation standard ANZPAC undertook wide ranging consultation about the content of the accreditation standard.

ANZPAC considered the feedback received from stakeholders during the public consultation when finalising the standards.

The Board has approved the accreditation standards for podiatric surgery programs developed by ANZPAC and has published them on the Board's website under the 'Accreditation' tab. The accreditation standards take effect on the day they are published on the Board's website.

Review of registration standards

The National Boards have committed to reviewing their registration standards at least every three years. By mid 2013, the National Scheme will be three years old, which will trigger a review of the standards that have been in place since the start of the scheme. In preparation, National Boards and AHPRA have commissioned research on English language skills testing, including the scope of exemptions from testing requirements. This research will inform the review of English Language Skills Registration Standards in 2013. The research evidence and other information from the review will be

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

shared with the four professions joining the Scheme on 1 July 2012 so that they can consider any implications for their registration standards. The existing standard was based on the approach of state and territory registration boards before July 2010, and informed by the consultation process that supported its development. The National Boards will consult on any changes to the English language skills registration standard in 2013.

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

7 June 2012