

Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 22 August 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.

ESM accreditation standards

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 Ministerial Council approval to endorse the registration of a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon for scheduled medicines.

The Board requested ANZPAC to develop accreditation standards relevant to an endorsement for scheduled medicines. In developing the accreditation standards ANZPAC undertook wide ranging consultation about the content of the accreditation standards and considered the feedback received from stakeholders during the public consultation when finalising the standards.

The Board has approved the following accreditation standards for programs of study relevant to an ESM:

- Podiatry ESM Accreditation Standards: Part A – Podiatric Therapeutics; and
- Podiatry ESM Accreditation Standards: Part B – Supervised Practice including Web-Based Case Studies

The accreditation standards will be published on the Board's website under the 'Accreditation' tab and take effect on the day they are published on the Board's website.

Currency of knowledge in podiatric therapeutics

The Board's requirements for an endorsement for scheduled medicines (ESM) are set out in the *Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines Registration Standard* and the Board's *Guidelines for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines* and *Information Package* provide further guidance for practitioners and supervisors.

There are currently two pathways towards an ESM and one of the requirements of both pathways is successful completion of an approved program of study in podiatric therapeutics.

To ensure that a practitioner who has completed an approved program of study in podiatric therapeutics has maintained their knowledge in podiatric therapeutics since completing the program of study, the Board has decided to set a currency period of seven years for knowledge in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of an ESM. This means that a practitioner who completed their program of study in podiatric therapeutics more

than seven years before applying for ESM and had no practice experience or continuing professional development in podiatric therapeutics in that period would be required to complete an update program or undertake another program of study in podiatric therapeutics.

Public consultation - Proposed options in relation to acupuncture for the podiatry profession

The Board has released a consultation paper inviting submissions regarding proposed options in relation to acupuncture for the podiatry profession.

The consultation paper is published on the Board's website under *Current Consultations*. The consultation period closes on 24 October 2012 and all stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the document by COB on this date.

New appointments to the Board

On 30 July 2012 Australia's state and territory health ministers announced changes to the membership of the 10 National Boards that were originally appointed in 2009 for three-year terms.

The appointments and reappointments will commence from 30 August 2012 and the Board will have three new members and a new Chair from this date.

The new Chair of the Board is Cathy Loughry, a practitioner member from South Australia and a member of the inaugural Board. The new members are Dr Paul Bennett, a practitioner member from Queensland; Ms Annabelle Williams, a practitioner member from Tasmania; and Mr Mark Bodycoat, a community member from South Australia.

Leaving the Board are Mr Jason Warnock, the inaugural Chair and a practitioner member from Queensland; Ms Helen Matthews, a practitioner member from the ACT; and Ms Margaret (Joan) Russell, a community member.

Members of the Board acknowledged the valuable contribution of these members and the dedication and leadership provided by Jason Warnock as Chair of the Board in its first term.

Stakeholder forum in Brisbane

The Board is holding its October 2012 board meeting in Brisbane to coincide with the Australian Podiatry Association (Qld) state conference which is being held in Brisbane on 12 -13 October 2012.

The Board will be hosting a forum for registrants on the evening of Thursday 11 October 2012 from 6 - 7.30pm. Further details will be provided once the venue has been confirmed and all Queensland podiatrists will soon receive an invitation via email to the forum.

The forum will provide an opportunity for Queensland podiatrists to meet members of the Board and discuss issues relating to the registration and regulation of podiatrists under the National Law. The Board hopes that as many podiatrists as possible will be able to attend the Board's forum.

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.

Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia

30 August 2012