

# Communiqué

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## Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 12 October 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 Queensland at the AHPRA Brisbane office.

### Forum for podiatrists in Brisbane

While in Brisbane, the Board held a forum on the evening of 11 October 2012, which was attended by a number of local podiatrists.

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

### Accreditation and approval of podiatry programs of study

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 appointed accreditation authority, the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC), in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession.

ANZPAC is responsible for accrediting individual programs of study after it is reasonably satisfied that the program of study:

- meets an approved accreditation standard, or
- substantially meets an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time.

ANZPAC can also refuse to accredit a program of study. ANZPAC is required to give the Board a report after it decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions). After being given an accreditation report, the Board may approve, or refuse to approve, the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

### Approval of program of study at the University of Newcastle

The Board approved until 30 September 2017 the Bachelor of Podiatry program of study offered by the University of Newcastle as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in the podiatry profession.

### Roadshows in 2013

Most of the Board's monthly meetings are held in Melbourne; however the Board is planning to hold the following two meetings in other capital cities in 2013:

- 3 May 2013 – Adelaide, and
- 25 October 2013 – Canberra.

This will provide an opportunity for the Board to host forums to meet podiatrists and students, and provide information and answer questions on the national registration and accreditation scheme.

The Board has also purchased a booth for the Australasian Podiatry Conference 2013, which is being held over three days at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre from Monday 2 – Wednesday 5 June 2013 and Board members and AHPRA staff will be in attendance to provide information and answer questions.

## Newsletter

The Board will soon be publishing its second newsletter for the year. A copy will be emailed to all podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who have provided AHPRA with an email address and posted to the remainder.

## Annual Report

AHPRA and the National Boards submitted the 2012 Annual Report to Ministers by 30 September as required by the National Law. The report, expected to be publicly released on 1 November, details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the second year of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The release will be supported by the publication of a special edition of AHPRA Report. The 2012 Annual Report and AHPRA Report will both be published online.

## Review of standards, guidelines and codes

The Podiatry Board of Australia and the other National Boards that have been in the National Scheme since 2010 have begun preparations for reviewing the registration standards, guidelines and codes that were developed before the scheme commenced.

The National Boards that joined the National Scheme in 2012 will also be participating in the public consultations on common registration standards, codes and guidelines.

Practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders will be able to provide feedback during the public consultation phases of the reviews. Where registration standards, guidelines and codes are common to all, or most, of the National Boards, the consultation phase will be coordinated across National Boards to make providing feedback easier.

Consultation is expected to occur over several stages, starting in 2013. The consultations are being staged (rather than happening simultaneously) to give stakeholders a better opportunity to provide feedback. Information about the reviews will be included in forthcoming communiqués and on the website as they commence.

## Renewal of registration

Registrants will have received information from AHPRA regarding renewal of registration, which is due by **30 November 2012**.

The Board encourages practitioners to renew their registration early and to renew online. If a practitioner has not applied to renew their registration within one month after their registration expiry date, their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise podiatry in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. Under the National Law, they must be removed from the Register of Podiatrists.

## CPD Reminder

Practitioners are required to regularly participate in continuing professional development (CPD) that is relevant to their scope of practice. Podiatrists with general registration are required to complete a minimum

of 20 hours of CPD per year, as well as hold a current CPR certificate which includes management of anaphylaxis and use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED).

Podiatric surgeons must complete an additional 20 hours of CPD per year related to this scope of practice, and podiatrists with an endorsement for scheduled medicines must complete an additional 10 hours of CPD per year related to the use of scheduled medicines in podiatry practice.

The Board's CPD requirements must be met by the time practitioners renew their registration.

When podiatrists renew their registration, they are required to declare on the renewal of registration form whether during the preceding registration period they have met the Board's CPD requirements. The Board may refuse to renew a practitioner's registration if the CPD requirements have not been met.

The Board's requirements for CPD are set out in the *Continuing Professional Development Registration Standard*, which is available on the Board's website under the Registration Standards tab. The Board's *Guidelines for continuing professional development* and FAQ for CPD are also on the Board's website under the Policies, Codes and Guidelines tab.

Practitioners should familiarise themselves with these documents which clearly explain the Board's CPD requirements and ensure that if they have not already met the requirements, that they are progressing towards meeting them by the time they renew their registration.

### 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.

Cathy Loughry  
Chair  
Podiatry Board of Australia

25 October 2012