



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 14 November 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 publishes this communiqué on its website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in the work of the Board.

Renewal of registration – due 30 November 2012

Time is running out podiatrists to renew their registration, which is due by **30 November**. The Board urges podiatrists who have yet to renew their registration to renew online and on time.

Podiatrists can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) - Renewal Received Confirmation. Individuals whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

Practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time and applications received after the registration expiry date will incur a late payment fee. The late payment fee will apply to podiatrists who apply to renew during December, which is the one month late period outlined in the National Law. It will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

If a practitioner has not applied to renew their registration within one month after their registration expiry date their name must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise podiatry in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

Panel member recruitment

The Board is calling for expressions of interest from experienced podiatrists and community members interested in being included on the Board's list of approved persons for panel appointments.

Under the National Law, the Board convenes health panels and performance and professional standards panels as necessary to hold hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters about individual registered podiatrists. These panels are made up of members chosen from the list of persons approved by the Board.

Appointments to the list of approved persons are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment.

The Board encourages suitably experienced podiatrists to apply to be appointed to the list. To download the candidate information pack please go to www.ahpra.gov.au/Health-Professions/Panel-member-recruitment.aspx.

Supervision Guidelines

The Board approved *Guidelines for supervision of podiatrists* and will publish these soon in the Policies, Codes and Guidelines section of the Board's website. These guidelines set out what the Board considers safe and effective supervision.

The Board has also developed the following associated templates, which will be published with the supervision guidelines:

- Supervised practice plan
- Orientation report
- Supervision agreement
- Supervision report.

Endorsement for acupuncture

The Board recently consulted on options for endorsement for acupuncture for the podiatry profession.

The submissions received from the public consultation indicated support for the Board's preferred option of not developing an acupuncture endorsement pathway for the podiatry profession.

The Board has decided that it will not establish an acupuncture endorsement pathway for the podiatry profession under the National Law. If a podiatrist wants to use the title 'acupuncturist' or claim to be a registered acupuncturist, then under the National Law they will need to apply for registration with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

The Board will review this decision in three years to assess interest from podiatrists requesting endorsement for acupuncture.

Newsletter

The Board has published its second newsletter for the year. The newsletter was emailed to all podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who have provided AHPRA with an email address and a hard copy has been posted to those practitioners who have not.

The Board encourages all podiatrists to read this newsletter to keep up to date on the work of the Board. The newsletter is also published on the Board's website at www.podiatryboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx

Annual Report

The annual report of the AHPRA and the National Boards has been published. It can be found on the AHPRA website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications/AHPRA-Publications.aspx>

The report details the second year of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme), as well as extensive data on health practitioner registration and regulation, including notifications.

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

26 November 2012