



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 12 December 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

The national registration of just over 3,700 podiatrists across Australia was due to be renewed with the Podiatry Board of Australia by 30 November 2012.

The Board is pleased to advise that 95 percent of podiatrists submitted their application for renewal of registration to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on time. These podiatrists have either been registered until 30 November 2013 or their application is still in assessment.

Podiatrists who have not yet applied to renew their registration have until 31 December 2012 to lodge their application. A late fee applies to these applications in addition to the registration renewal fee.

Under the National Law, podiatrists who do not renew registration by 31 December 2012 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.

Further information on renewal of registration can be found on the Board's website at www.podiatryboard.gov.au

Accreditation and approval of programs of study in podiatric therapeutics

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 or an endorsement. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

The Board has Ministerial Council approval to endorse the registration of a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon for scheduled medicines. In August this year the Board approved accreditation standards for programs of study relevant to an endorsement for scheduled medicines.

Approval of program of study at the University of Newcastle

The Board approved the Bachelor of Podiatry program of study at the University of Newcastle as providing a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of an endorsement for scheduled medicines in the podiatry profession.

Approval of program of study at the University of Western Australia

The Board approved the Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine program of study at the University of Western Australia as providing a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of an endorsement for scheduled medicines in the podiatry profession.

Approval of program of study at the University of Western Sydney

The Board approved the Bachelor of Applied Science (Podiatry) program of study at the University of Western Sydney as providing a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of an endorsement for scheduled medicines in the podiatry profession.

Information on the Board's requirements for an endorsement for scheduled medicines can be found on the Board's website under the Registration and endorsement tab.

Panel member recruitment

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.

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. The Board has extended the recruitment period to 28 February 2013 and 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.

Review of accreditation arrangements

The Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC) was assigned the role of accreditation authority for the podiatry profession by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council prior to the commencement of the National Scheme for an initial period of three years.

Following a review which included wide-ranging public consultation, the Board has decided to continue this assignment to ANZPAC for a period of five (5) years from 1 July 2013.

In making the assignment, the Board is conscious of the need to balance the need for flexibility and responsiveness to developments such as the review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme with the need for certainty and continuity for education providers and to enable effective planning and efficient management by the Council. The Board will build in appropriate flexibility into its future arrangements with the Council and will also establish an agreed program of work and key issues to be addressed during the period of the assignment. The Council will continue to provide the Board with regular reports (in addition to reports on accredited programs) on its activities and governance structures in line with the Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function.

Community Reference Group

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

AHPRA is establishing a Community Reference Group on behalf of all National Boards in the National Scheme. The Community Reference Group will consist of ten members from the community who will provide input and advice on how AHPRA and the National Boards can engage the community more effectively. More information on how to apply to become a member will be available on the AHPRA website in coming weeks, with applications expected to close at the end of January.

Season's Greetings

The Board would like to wish all members of the podiatry profession and stakeholders a safe and happy holiday season.

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

19 December 2012