



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 24 July 2013

This communiqué highlights important issues from the last meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board). At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Stakeholder forum in Canberra

The Board is hosting a forum for podiatry practitioners in Canberra on the evening of Thursday 24 October 2013. This will provide an opportunity for ACT podiatrists to meet members of the Board and discuss issues relating to the registration and regulation of podiatrists under the National Law.

Further details will be provided when the venue has been confirmed. We will send an email invitation to the forum to all ACT podiatrists who have provided their email address. The Board hopes that as many podiatrists as possible will attend.

Fee schedule

The Board's registration fee for 2013/14 has been set at \$377. It will apply from 1 August 2013 for all practitioners in Australia, except those with a principal place of practice in NSW. The Board limited increasing the fee to the national consumer price index (CPI) of 2.5%, to allow the Board to continue its work regulating the profession while not putting undue financial pressure on practitioners.

A fees schedule reflecting the Board's fee for 2013/14 will be published on the Board's website on 1 August 2013. From 1 September 2013, there will be a variation in the fee payable by NSW practitioners. A revised fee schedule reflecting the new NSW fees will be published on the National Board's website on 1 September 2013.

NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) – so the Health Professional Councils in New South Wales and the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) work in tandem to assess and manage concerns about health practitioners' conduct, health and performance. In all other states and territories, this work is done by the National Boards supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

In NSW, podiatrists pay an annual registration renewal fee set by the National Board. The Podiatry Council of NSW is responsible for setting the notifications/ complaints element of the registration fee payable by NSW practitioners. The fee that NSW practitioners pay is the combined sum of National Scheme costs (for registration and accreditation) and the fee set by the NSW Health Professional Councils for the notification/ complaints component. The NSW government contributes in NSW through funding for the Health Care Complaints Commission. In 2013, the National Scheme component of the national fee increased by just under the CPI of 2.5%. The costs of the notifications/complaint component for podiatry have increased, so the fee payable by NSW practitioners is above the national fee.

Further information on the NSW complaints component of the registration fee is available on the Podiatry Council of NSW website (www.hpca.nsw.gov.au/Podiatry-Council/Home/Home/default.aspx). The Board's [media statement about the National Fee](#), including more detail on NSW fee setting arrangements, is also published on the Board's website.

The regulation of podiatry is funded solely by registrant fees and there is no cross subsidisation between professions that are regulated in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Board effectiveness workshop

As part of its ongoing strategic planning process, the Board participated in a Board effectiveness workshop in which members reflected on processes, behaviours and relationships to identify the main areas where the Board could improve and streamline its operations.

The Board will now consider recommendations from the workshop and explore and act on strategies to ensure it is working effectively to meet its regulatory obligations.

Information about how complaints are managed

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has published new guides for health practitioners and the community about how notifications are managed in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The [Guide for practitioners](#) and a series of information sheets aim to explain to practitioners what happens when AHPRA receives a notification on behalf of a National Board. The information complements the direct correspondence that individuals receive if a notification is made about them.

AHPRA has also developed a guide for the community about making a complaint (or notification) about a health practitioner. This [Guide for notifiers: Do you have a concern about a health practitioner? A guide for people raising a concern](#) will be a focus of review by the newly-established Community Reference Group for AHPRA and the National Boards.

Both guides are published online on the AHPRA website in a revised section on complaints and notifications and are accessible through the National Board websites. AHPRA collaborated with the professional associations for practitioners registered in the National Scheme to develop the guide for practitioners

Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on our 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
31 July 2013