



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 27 November 2013

Registration renewal

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons with general, specialist or non-practising registration were due to renew their registration by 30 November 2013. 95% of podiatrists and podiatric surgeons applied to renew their registration by this date and most renewed online.

Applications for renewal that are received up to one month after the registration expiry date will incur a late payment fee, which is payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

If you don't apply to renew your registration during the one-month late period ending 31 December 2013, your registration will lapse in accordance with the National Law and your name will be removed from the Register of Podiatrists and/or the Board's specialist register. You will not be able to practise podiatry in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

If you were due to renew by 30 November 2013 and you wish to continue to practise you must renew your registration by 31 December 2013.

If you experience difficulties using the online renewal service you can phone the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 and a team member will guide you through the process.

It is important that you make sure AHPRA has your current contact information so that you don't miss email and hard copy reminders to renew.

To update your contact details using AHPRA's secure online services, you can go to the AHPRA website at www.ahpra.gov.au then:

- go to the bottom of the home page
- click on *Update Contact Details* under Services for Practitioners
- use your user ID and secure password, and
- follow the prompts.

Newsletter

The Board recently released its latest newsletter, which was emailed to all registrants who have provided AHPRA with their email address and mailed to those who haven't.

The newsletter is published on the Board's website and topics include the Board's code of conduct, infection control and clinical recordkeeping. You are encouraged to read the newsletter to help you keep up to date on the work of the Board and AHPRA.

Consultation on registration standards

As part of a scheduled review of the registration standards that have been in place since 1 July 2010, the Board, together with other National Boards, is currently consulting on the *Criminal history registration standard* and the *English language skills registration standard*.

The *English language skills registration standard* sets minimum requirements for practitioners to ensure they can communicate effectively in English and provide safe care to the Australian community.

The *Criminal history registration standard* sets out what National Boards will consider when deciding whether a health practitioner's criminal history is relevant to their practice of their profession.

The consultation paper is available under [Current consultations](#) on the Board's website. The consultation period closes on 23 December 2013 and the Board encourages practitioners to take the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed standards.

Audit

AHPRA and the National Boards are developing a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with mandatory registration standards. Pilot audits have been conducted in some professions which were designed to determine the frequency, size and type of audits required and to establish an audit methodology. Information about the pilot audits is available on the AHPRA website under 'Registration'.

Each time you apply to renew your registration, you must make a declaration that you have met the registration standards for the podiatry profession. Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that the Board can protect the public by checking compliance with the Board's mandatory registration standards through a random sample of practitioners. An audit will help to make sure that practitioners are meeting the required standards and provide important assurance to the Board and the community.

The Board will be starting an audit to check compliance with registration standards in February 2014. Information about the audit is available on the Board's website under 'Registration and Endorsement'.

If you are selected for audit you will be notified in writing and requested to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the standard or standards being audited.

Annual report - 2012/13

AHPRA and the National Boards have published the 2012/13 annual report. The report details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) over the 12 months to 30 June 2013.

It includes data about all professions regulated under the National Scheme, including a detailed report and data for the Podiatry Board of Australia.

The report is available on the AHPRA website under 'Legislation and Publications'.

Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on the website at www.podiatryboard.gov.au and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting their profession.

Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
5 December 2013