

## Communiqué

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### Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 30 April 2014

#### Advertising guidelines: update

Revised *Advertising guidelines* came into effect on 17 March for all the regulated health professions. These are published under *Policies, Codes and Guidelines* on the Podiatry Board of Australia's website.

The guidelines were developed by the National Boards and explain the requirements of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([National Law](#)) in relation to advertising and the use of testimonials in advertising. The National Law does not allow testimonials to be used when advertising a regulated health service (section 133).

On 26 March the Medical Board of Australia announced it would revise the guidelines to make them clearer about the use of testimonials. Read the [news item](#) on the Medical Board of Australia website.

The Podiatry Board of Australia (Board), along with other National Boards, has agreed to revise and clarify the wording on testimonials as part of implementing the new *Advertising guidelines*.

We will keep practitioners informed and in the meantime, AHPRA is managing complaints about advertising in line with the information in the *FAQ on the revised advertising guidelines* on the Board's website.

This means practitioners are not responsible for removing (or trying to have removed) unsolicited testimonials published on a website or in social media over which they don't have control.

#### 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, 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 accreditation 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 endorsement. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

#### Approval of programs of study at Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

The Board has approved the following programs of study offered by Queensland University of Technology (QUT):

- Approved until 7 March 2019 the Bachelor of Podiatry (Pass & Hons) program of study offered by QUT (Kelvin Grove campus) as providing:
  - a qualification for registration as a podiatrist, and
  - a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.
- Approved until 31 December 2015 the Bachelor of Health Science (Podiatry) program of study offered by QUT (Kelvin Grove campus) as providing:
  - a qualification for registration as a podiatrist, and
  - a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines. This approval limited to those who graduated from this course in 2013 or later.

### **CPR – changes to training requirements**

The Board's *Continuing professional development registration standard* requires podiatrists to complete training through a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) that includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), management of anaphylaxis and use of an automated external defibrillator. The CPR component must be updated every 12 months. Podiatrists must have a current Certificate of Attainment issued by an RTO as evidence that they have successfully completed the training.

The Board is aware that revised assessment requirements for recognised CPR training packages include the requirement for CPR to be performed on a resuscitation manikin placed on the floor.

The Board has agreed that as a matter of policy, an exemption may be granted from the requirement to successfully complete CPR training for podiatrists who are physically unable to perform CPR on a manikin placed on the floor.

The Board still expects practitioners to undertake the CPR training delivered by an RTO and understands that if a candidate is unable to complete this part of the assessment (i.e. perform CPR on a resuscitation manikin placed on the floor ) an RTO may issue a certificate of attendance as an indication of participation in the course. However, the issuing of such a certificate is up to the individual RTO.

An application to the Board for such an exemption would need to be accompanied by:

- a certificate of attendance at the recommended CPR training course delivered by an RTO; and
- evidence of the physical impairment which prevents the practitioner from performing CPR on the floor, such as a report from their medical practitioner.

It is the responsibility of the practitioner to check with the RTO before attending the training whether the RTO will issue a certificate of attendance at the training course if the CPR is unable to be performed on a manikin on the floor.

The Board's *Policy on exemption from CPD requirements* is published on the Board's website. The Board is updating this document to reflect this new policy.

### **Upcoming public consultation on registration standards and guidelines**

As part of a scheduled review of the registration standards that have been in place since 1 July 2010, the Board will soon be consulting on the following proposed revised registration standards and guidelines:

- Professional indemnity insurance registration standard
- Continuing professional development registration standard and related guidelines
- Recency of practice registration standard and related guideline
- Guidelines for infection control

The consultation papers will be published under [Current consultations](#) on the Board's website.

The Board encourages practitioners to take the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed standards and guidelines.

## Snapshot of the registered podiatry workforce

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia's podiatry workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants.

The Board's March 2014 data update, which was recently published on the Board's website shows that there are 4108 registered podiatry practitioners in Australia. Of these, 4003 hold general registration as a podiatrist, 27 hold general and specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon and 78 hold non-practising registration.

## Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on the [Board's website](#) 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**  
12 May 2014