



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 29 August 2014

NRAS 2014 combined meeting

The Board's meeting coincided with the annual National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) combined meeting held in Melbourne. The combined meeting was attended by all of the National Boards, the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA staff, and other key partners, including representatives of NSW Councils and accreditation authorities.

The purpose of the combined meeting is to encourage learning through sharing ideas, innovation and networking.

Registration fees for 2014/15

The Board has announced the registration fee for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons for 2014/15.

The fee will apply from 9 September 2014 and covers the registration period for most practitioners of 1 December 2014 to 30 November 2015. A fees schedule has been published on the Board's website.

The Board has limited increasing the fee to the national consumer price index (CPI) of 2.9% so that the National Board can continue to fulfil its regulatory obligations under the National Law and to protect the public.

More detailed information about the Board's financial operations will be outlined in the Health Profession Agreement between the Board and AHPRA for 2014/15, which will be published on the Board's website soon. This agreement sets out the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide to support the Board to regulate the podiatry profession.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme – 3 year review

Health Ministers have initiated the scheduled three year review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The consultation paper for the three year review was published on 30 August 2014 and can be accessed here. The consultation, which is open until 10 October 2014, is considering the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme as a whole including the work of National Boards, AHPRA, accrediting entities and the role of governments.

The review team expects to make its recommendations early in 2015, which will then be subject to final decisions by all Health Ministers.

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.

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

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.

Programs of study approved by the Board are published under [Accreditation](#) on the Board's website.

[Approval of program of study at the University of Western Australia](#)

The Board approved until 31 October 2016 the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine program of study offered by the University of Western Australia as providing a qualification for general registration as a podiatrist.

[Public consultation on draft Guidelines for the regulatory management of registered health practitioners and students infected with blood-borne viruses](#)

The Podiatry Board, together with the other National Boards is inviting feedback on guidelines on the regulatory management of health practitioners with blood borne infectious diseases. Under the draft guidelines, registered health practitioners with blood borne infectious diseases must comply with the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) guidance on this issue to ensure their practice does not compromise patient safety.

The National Boards have published a consultation paper, which is accessible from the Board's [consultations](#) page. The consultation is open until 26 September 2014.

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
11 September 2014