



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 24 October 2014

The Board held its meeting in New South Wales at the Sydney AHPRA office.

Meetings in Sydney

The Board met with local stakeholders to coincide with its Board meeting in Sydney. This provided an opportunity for Board members to discuss issues regarding the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and local practice.

Have you renewed your registration yet?

Online renewal of registration is now open for general, specialist or non-practising podiatrists and podiatric surgeons.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons with general, specialist or non-practising registration should renew their registration by 30 November 2014.

Under the National Law, all registered health practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year. [We encourage you to renew online](#). Practitioners who don't renew their registration within one month of 30 November must be removed from the *Register of practitioners*. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practice or work in Australia as a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon until a new application for registration is approved.

A series of reminders are being sent to practitioners with a registered email address by AHPRA on behalf of the Board. The reminders include a link to online renewal. It is important that AHPRA has your current contact information so you don't miss future email and hard copy reminders to renew.

Updating contact details

To check or update your contact details, go to the [Your Account](#) link on the AHPRA homepage, and enter your User ID, date of birth and password. Please note that your User ID is not your registration number. If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call 1300 419 495.

CPD Reminder

When you renew your registration, you must declare whether you have met the Board's continuing professional development (CPD) requirements. The Board may refuse to renew your registration if the CPD requirements have not been met.

The Board's requirements for CPD are set out in the [Continuing professional development registration standard](#) (PDF, 334KB).

The Board's [Guidelines for continuing professional development](#) and FAQ's for CPD are also on the [Board's website](#).

The Board encourages you to read these documents carefully to ensure that you understand your CPD requirements. You need to ensure that you have met these requirements by the time you renew your registration.

Online graduate application service

Final-year students who will soon complete a Board-approved program of study can go online to apply for registration before they graduate through AHPRA's online graduate application service. This service smooths the path from study to work by enabling final-year podiatry students to apply for registration four to six weeks before completing their course.

There is a banner on the Board's [homepage](#) which will link students to information about the process.

Graduates must make an application for registration and are required to return some documents to AHPRA by mail to complete their application. Graduates can start work as soon as they are registered and their name is published on the [Register of practitioners](#).

Registrant Survey

The Board will be conducting a voluntary and anonymous email survey of registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons in early 2015.

An important component of the Board's strategic plan and its supporting work plan is its commitment to evidence based decision making. The Board has identified a number of potential projects for further consideration, including identifying areas where new standards, guidelines or policies may be required, and identifying options for more effective communications with registered practitioners.

The Board has decided that the assignment of priorities would be greatly assisted by a more complete understanding of the Board's operating environment, including through feedback from registered practitioners through a survey. This also has the potential to identify issues not currently known to the Board.

By conducting this survey, the Board aims to get a better understanding of the podiatry profession's knowledge and understanding of their obligations under the National Law and the role of the Board, the future directions in podiatry practice, as well as identifying areas where the Board might need to provide more guidance to the profession.

Call for applications for appointment to National Boards

Applications are sought for [appointments to upcoming vacancies](#) on a number of National Boards, including the Podiatry Board of Australia.

Actions to improve the consumer experience

A report recommending ways to improve consumers' interaction with the National Scheme has been published, along with a list of actions that AHPRA is taking to address the issues raised.

In March this year, AHPRA commissioned the Health Issues Centre Victoria (HIC) to investigate and make suggestions to improve the consumer experience of the National Scheme that regulates health practitioners.

AHPRA has published the HIC report – *Setting things right: Improving the consumer experience of AHPRA including the joint notification process between AHPRA and OHSC*. Accompanying the report is AHPRA's action plan, which outlines what work AHPRA has done to date, and what will be done next, to address the report's recommendations. Both documents can be accessed via [AHPRA's News page](#).

AHPRA has committed to reporting publicly on its actions to improve the experience of people who make a notification (complaint about a health practitioner).

The HIC drew on historical and current data to come up with clear picture of the current experience of consumers who have made a complaint about a practitioner. The research focused on the experience of Victorian notifiers, but AHPRA's action plan applies the improvements nationally.

Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on the [Board's website](#). Practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies or guidelines affecting their profession.

Cathy Loughry

Chair

Podiatry Board of Australia

31 October 2014