



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 26 August 2015

Thank you to our retiring board members

Four of our board members retired from the Board at the end of August. Mr Mark Gilheany (Vic) and Associate Professor Laurie Foley (WA), together with Mrs Anne-Marie Hunter (Qld), who resigned from the Board in April, were inaugural members of the Podiatry Board of Australia, each serving two terms on the Board. Mr Mark Bodycoat (SA) and Ms Annabelle Williams (Tas) each served one term on the Board.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank them all for their dedication and commitment to the regulation of the podiatry profession and acknowledge their valuable contribution to the work of the Board.

Accreditation and approval of programs of study for the podiatry profession

One of the objectives of the National Law¹ 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, the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (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. It may accredit a program of study if it is reasonably satisfied that the program and the education provider that provides the program meet, or substantially meet an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the accreditation will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time.

If ANZPAC decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions), it must give the Board a report about its accreditation of the program. After considering the 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.

Southern Cross University

After considering a report on accreditation provided by ANZPAC, the Board approved until 11 July 2017 the accredited Bachelor of Podiatry (Pass & Honours) program of study offered by Southern Cross University as providing:

- a qualification for general registration as a podiatrist, and
- a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)

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 June 2015 data update, which was published on the Board's website in mid-August, shows there are 4,386 registered podiatry practitioners in Australia. Of these, 4,260 hold general registration as a podiatrist, 30 hold general and specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon and 96 hold non-practising registration.

Board notes Ministers' response to NRAS review report

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council met on 7 August 2015 at the COAG Health Council meeting to consider the final report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The purpose of the independent review was to identify what is working well in the National Scheme and the opportunities to improve and strengthen the operation of the scheme to regulate health professions in the public interest.

Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally. A copy of COAG Health Council communiqué about the review can be accessed on the [COAG Health Council](#) website

AHPRA and the National Boards' joint submission to the review is published on the [Corporate publications page](#) of the AHPRA website. More information about the review can be found on the [COAG Health Council](#) website or on [AHPRA's](#) website.

Top tips for using the register

The [Register of Practitioners](#) is core to all of our work because it provides up-to-date information about every registered health practitioner. To help the public and employers get the most out of the register, we have developed [these tips](#). In particular, the tips remind anyone responsible for recruiting health practitioners how to use the register to verify a practitioner's registration status.

Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

AHPRA uses [Twitter](#) to encourage greater discussion about National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

Updating contact details

To check or update your contact details, go to the online services panel for practitioners on the homepage of the Board's website and click on the relevant link. Enter your user ID, date of birth and password to access your account. 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.

Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on its [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
3 September 2015