

6 November 2015



2014/15 National Scheme annual report launched

The [2014/15 annual report: AHPRA and National Boards](#) has been published.

The report details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme over the 12 months to 30 June 2015.

There are now more than 637,218 health practitioners registered to practise in Australia, from 14 different professions, representing overall growth of 2.9% over the past year.

Podiatry Board of Australia Chair Ms Catherine Loughry said assurance, challenge and improvement in proportionate regulation remained the focus for National Boards.

'As National Boards we strive to be a driving force for positive change and leadership in public safety and facilitating access to health services,' Ms Loughry said.

'Our efforts continue to focus on patient safety and the quality of regulation for health professions. This report helps to inform the public and health practitioners how we meet our objectives and responsibilities,' she said.

'Information about each of these registered health practitioners is easily available to the community through the national online register,' said Martin Fletcher, Chief Executive Officer of AHPRA.

'Maintaining an up to date national register is one of the most important ways in which we protect the public.'

For the podiatry profession, the report reveals that:

- 4,386 practitioners were registered at the end of June 2015, an increase of 6.2 per cent from the previous year
- 20 notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about podiatrists and podiatric surgeons (excluding NSW where there is a co-regulatory system)¹
- 31 notifications about practitioners were closed by 30 June 2015
- of the 31 cases closed under the National Scheme, the Podiatric Board of Australia determined:
 - to take no further action or that the case was to be handled by the relevant health complaints entity in the relevant state or territory in 20 cases
 - that conditions be imposed on a practitioner's registration in five cases,
 - in five cases cautions would be issued, and
 - one case resulted in cancellation of a practitioner's registration.
- the Board finalised its review of the core registration standards that have been in place for the podiatry profession since the start of the National Scheme
- the Board submitted revised registration standards for:
 - professional indemnity insurance arrangements
 - continuing professional development, and
 - recency of practice.

- the Board focussed on activities to build an evidence base to inform its regulatory decision-making into the future, including:
 - analysing notifications received since the start of the National Scheme for trends or themes
 - carrying out a survey of registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons to obtain information about podiatry practice in Australia, and
 - a roundtable with key podiatric stakeholders across Australia.

The annual report is published at www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015. It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Podiatry Board of Australia.

A media release about the report – with data across professions and jurisdictions – is published on the [AHPRA website](#).

A report, which presents the data specific to podiatry practice, will be published on the Board's website before the end of the calendar year.

For more information

- Go to www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015
- Read the National Scheme [media release](#)
- Lodge an [online enquiry form](#)
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

¹NSW is part of the National Scheme but notifications about practitioners' health, performance and conduct are handled by the [HCCC](#) and the NSW health professional councils supported by the [HPCA](#).