



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 30 October 2015

The Board held its meeting in Queensland at the Brisbane office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Next year the Board will hold its April meeting in Sydney, its June meeting in Darwin and its October meeting in Adelaide.

New member

The Board welcomed new member Janice Davies (community member) to her first meeting.

Meetings with stakeholders in Brisbane

The Board met with some of its local stakeholders to coincide with the board meeting in Brisbane. This provided an opportunity for the Board to discuss issues regarding the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) and local practice.

Have you renewed your registration yet?

Registration renewal for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons is due on 30 November 2015.

If you haven't already renewed your registration, the quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is [online](#).

Applications received in December will incur a late fee, which reflects the cost of managing late renewals.

Under the National Law¹ practitioners who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of Podiatrists and/or the Board's Specialist Register in the case of podiatric surgeons. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

If you have provided an email address to the Board or AHPRA you will have been sent email reminders to renew. Paper reminders have also been sent to practitioners who have not yet renewed.

CPD reminder

When you renew your registration, you must declare whether you have met the Board's 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*, which can be found on the [Board's website](#), together with the Board's [Guidelines for continuing professional development](#) which provide further guidance.

You need to ensure that you have met these requirements by the time you renew your registration.

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

Are your contact details up to date?

With renewal reminders being sent out, it is important that your contact details are up to date.

You can check or update your contact information by logging in to the [secure online services](#). Use your user ID and secure password, and follow the prompts.

If you do not have your user ID, complete an [online enquiry form](#) and select 'Online Services - Practitioner' as the category type. You might also need to [reset your password](#).

Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to a 'junk email' or 'spam' box or account.

Revised registration standards: continuing professional development (CPD), professional indemnity insurance (PII) and recency of practice (RoP)

The Board's registration standards for CPD, PII and RoP have been revised following consultation and have now been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council).

The Board will release the revised standards on its website in the coming months, well before the start date, to help practitioners become familiar with the new standards. The start dates for each standard will be different, and will generally align with the registration renewal period.

CPD registration standard

The revised [CPD standard](#) was published on the Board's website on 30 October and will start on 1 December 2015, that being the start of the next registration period. Practitioners will need to declare that they have met the standard at the end of the next registration period, giving practitioners one year to do CPD that meets the new standard.

There have been minimal changes to the Board's CPD standard. The number of hours of CPD that podiatrists and podiatric surgeons are required to complete each year has not changed and the categories of CPD are largely the same.

The Board has maintained flexibility in the standard; while CPD must be completed from at least two different categories, practitioners have flexibility with what, when, where and how CPD activity may be done. This can include attending podiatry conferences, undertaking online CPD activities, discussing case(s) with health sector peers, and self-directed learning such as reviewing relevant research publications or journal articles.

The Board has introduced a requirement that a minimum of five hours of CPD must be in an interactive setting with other practitioners. This can include Skype or videoconferencing.

The Board has maintained the requirement for podiatrists to complete training that includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), management of anaphylaxis and use of an automated external defibrillator, and for podiatric surgeons to complete training in advanced life support. The Board has expanded the approved training organisations that can deliver the training to include a hospital and/or health service.

PII registration standard

The revised PII standard will be published in early December and is expected to start in early to mid 2016.

RoP registration standard

The revised RoP standard will start on 1 December 2016 and will be published well before that date. Practitioners will need to declare that they have met the standard at the end of the registration period of 30 November 2017.

We will provide more information about the PII and RoP standards when they are published.

2014/15 National Scheme annual report

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their [2014/15 Annual Report](#) on the National Scheme providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

It includes a 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 this year.

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
5 November 2015