



Communiqué

11 December 2015

The Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function under the National Law¹ and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and matters regarding the National Scheme. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in its content.

November 2015 meeting

The Board held its 25 November 2015 meeting by teleconference.

Have you renewed your registration yet? Registration now in late period

The registration renewal date for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons was 30 November 2015.

If you have not already renewed your registration, you can still apply to renew until **31 December 2015**; however, a late fee must be paid in addition to the renewal of registration fee.

The quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is [online](#). You can keep practising during the late period but must apply for renewal of registration by **31 December**.

Under the National Law¹, if you do not apply to renew your registration within one month of your registration expiry date, your registration will lapse and your name must be removed from the [Register of Podiatrists](#), and/or the Board's specialist register in the case of podiatric surgeons. This means that you cannot practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

If you wish to practise you must make a new application for registration. Fast track application forms will be available on the Board website under *Forms* during **January**. If submitting a fast track application in January, you cannot practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

Information about renewal, including renewal FAQ's is available on the [Board's website](#).

Revised CPD standard for the podiatry profession has commenced

A revised continuing professional development (CPD) registration standard took effect on 1 December 2015.

The Board published the [revised CPD standard](#) on 30 October to help practitioners become familiar with the new requirements before the standard commenced. The revised CPD registration standard will apply to all registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons in Australia, except those with non-practising registration. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standard by the next registration renewal period on 30 November 2016.

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

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 undertake each year has not changed and the categories of CPD are largely the same.

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

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 has been maintained. However, the Board has expanded the approved training organisations that can deliver the training to include a hospital and/or health service.

The Board has also published revised guidelines for CPD and updated FAQ's for CPD.

More information about the new CPD registration standard can be found on the Board's [website](#).

Revised standard for PII arrangements now published

A revised registration standard for Professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements has been published by the Board.

The [revised standard](#) will come in to effect on 1 July 2016 and will replace the standard that is currently in place. This standard will apply to all registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons except those with non-practising registration. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standard either:

- by the time they next renew their PII arrangements policy, **or**
- by their next renewal of registration after 1 October 2016, whichever is sooner.

This registration standard does not apply to the current cycle of renewals (that is, it does not apply to late applications for renewal received in December).

National Boards will shortly publish more information about the revised PII arrangements registration standard which explains the requirements and what is expected of practitioners, in addition to some common FAQs. The Podiatry Board of Australia has also published updated FAQ's for PII.

More information about the revised PII arrangements standard, including a brief consultation report and FAQs, can be found on the [Professional indemnity insurance arrangements page](#) of the AHPRA website

National drug screening protocol

AHPRA and the National Boards have published information on a national drug screening protocol that came into effect in November 2015.

From November 2015, all podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who have restrictions placed on their registration by the Board as a result of past substance misuse will have routine quarterly hair testing, in addition to random urine testing.

The introduction of routine hair testing is based on expert advice about modern screening methods. Routine hair testing helps provide comprehensive information about the use – over time – of a wide range of drugs (not just based on the practitioner's drug taking history).

The drug screening protocol is part of a wider, national strategy to effectively manage compliance and monitoring across the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. More information is in the [statement](#) published on the Board's website.

Snapshot of the registered podiatry workforce

The Board publishes [quarterly data](#) profiling Australia's podiatry workforce, including a number of statistic breakdowns about registrants.

The Board's September 2015 data update, which was published on the Board's website in early December, shows there are 4,399 registered podiatry practitioners in Australia. Of these, 4,276 hold general registration as a podiatrist, 29 hold both general and specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon and 94 hold non-practising registration. It also shows 70 practitioners have endorsement for scheduled medicines.

Latest Podiatry Board newsletter now available

An electronic newsletter providing an update on a range of Board activities and practice related issues was emailed in November to registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons. Practitioners who have not provided an email address can do so through the [online services for practitioners](#). A copy of the newsletter is available on the Board's [website](#).

Podiatry Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will also publish a report in the new year of its work in regulating the podiatry professions in the National Scheme during 2014/15.

The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme and will be available soon on the [AHPRA website](#).

Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

AHPRA uses Twitter to encourage greater discussion about National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

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