



Communiqué

March 2016

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

This communiqué highlights key matters from the Board's meeting as well as other important information.

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.

March 2016 meeting

The Board held its meeting in Melbourne on 23 March 2016.

Meeting with Podiatrists Board of New Zealand

The Board met with representatives of the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand at the AHPRA office in Melbourne on 22 March. The two boards entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in 2011, with a view to maintaining an ongoing collaborative relationship, in the spirit of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA), which will serve to better protect the public. The two boards currently meet annually to exchange information about common issues about the regulation of the podiatry profession in Australia and New Zealand.

Revised guidelines for infection prevention and control published

The Board's revised [Guidelines on infection prevention and control](#) come into effect on **4 April 2016**. The guidelines, which describe the obligations of registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons with respect to infection prevention and control, were published on 10 March 2016 to give practitioners some time to become familiar with the revised guidelines.

The Board has made minimal changes to the guidelines and is continuing to adopt the [National Health and Medical Research Council Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare](#) (NHMRC guidelines). The NHMRC guidelines were developed using best available evidence and aim to promote and facilitate the overall goal of infection prevention and control.

Effective infection prevention and control is central to providing high quality care for patients and a safe working environment for those that work in healthcare settings. The Board expects podiatrists and podiatric surgeons to practise in a way that maintains and enhances public health and safety by ensuring that the risk of the spread of infection is prevented or minimised.

Practitioners must be familiar with and practise within the recommendations of the NHMRC guidelines as they apply to the practice setting(s) in which they work.

The Board has also developed and published a (self audit) [tool](#) that practitioners may choose to use to see how well they comply with the Board's *Guidelines on infection prevention and control*.

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

The Board hopes practitioners will utilise the self audit tool as a checklist to ensure their workplace is clean and hygienic and that they are taking the necessary practicable steps to prevent or minimise the spread of infection.

Further information

Practitioners are responsible for keeping up to date with the Board's expectations about their professional obligations. Further information about the Board can be found on our [website](#) and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting the podiatry profession.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme please refer to the information published on www.ahpra.gov.au. Alternatively, contact AHPRA by an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
5 April 2016