



Communiqué

September 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.

September 2016 meeting

The Board held its September meeting by teleconference.

Public consultation paper on endorsement for scheduled medicines

The Board is consulting on a proposed revised endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard and related guidelines.

The Board wants to hear what you think about the proposed revised standard and guidelines and encourages feedback.

The consultation paper is published under [Current Consultations](#) on the Board's website.

The consultation is open until **Friday 9 December 2016**.

Registration renewal is due soon

Registration renewal for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons is due on 30 November 2016.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who are due to renew their general, specialist or non-practising registration by 30 November 2016 can apply online now. [Online renewal](#) is quick and easy.

A video explaining how to renew registration online is available on the [Practitioner Services](#) page of the AHPRA website. More information is available on the Board's [website](#).

If you haven't already received an email reminder notice from AHPRA, please check that your contact details are up to date (see below). Remember to renew before 30 November if you want to continue to practise. There is a late fee for renewal applications received in December, which reflects the cost of managing late renewals.

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) if you do not renew your registration within one month of their registration expiry date you must be removed from the [Register of Practitioners](#). Your registration will lapse and you 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. Paper reminders have also been sent to practitioners who have not yet renewed.

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

For more information:

- visit [Registration renewal](#)
- lodge an online enquiry form, or
- for registration enquiries call 1300 419 495 (within Australia) or +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers).

Are your contact details up to date?

It is important your contact details are up to date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. You can check your details via the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website. Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

Reminder - revised registration standards for CPD and PII

A revised registration standard for continuing professional development (CPD) took effect on 1 December 2015 and a revised registration standard for professional indemnity insurance arrangements took effect on 1 July 2016.

Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the new standards by the time they renew their registration, which is due by 30 November 2016.

More information about the new CPD standard is on the [Board's website](#). The Board has also published revised guidelines for CPD, FAQ's and templates to help practitioners plan and record their CPD activities. These can be found on the [Policies, codes and guidelines](#) section of the Board's website.

More information about the new standard is also on the [Board's website](#).

More information about your advertising obligations

The Board would like to remind all podiatrists and podiatric surgeons that they must comply with the provisions of the National Law on the advertising of regulated health services, relevant national, state and territory consumer protection legislation and, if applicable, legislation regulating the advertising of therapeutic goods.

The Board has published further information on its [website](#) to help podiatrists and podiatric surgeons better understand their advertising obligations, including further information on advertising therapeutic claims.

This information does not replace the Board's [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#) which should be your first point of reference to understanding your obligations.

The burden is on you to substantiate any claim you make that your treatments benefit patients. If you do not understand whether the claims you have made can be substantiated based on acceptable evidence, then remove them from your advertising.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is responsible for prosecuting breaches of the advertising requirements in the National Law. This means that AHPRA with the Board needs to decide whether there has been a breach of your advertising obligations.

These are serious matters that can have serious consequences for your professional standing and your criminal record: **if in doubt about a claim, leave it out of your advertising.**

Quarterly registration data

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia's podiatry workforce.

At 30 June 2016, there were a total of 4,655 registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons. Of these 4,524 held general registration; 30 held both general registration and specialist registration; 74 had their registration endorsed for scheduled medicines and 101 held non-practising registration.

The quarterly registration data at 30 June 2016 for the podiatry profession are published on the Board's website under [About/Statistics](#). The report includes a number of statistical breakdowns.

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

The Board publishes a range of information for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons on its [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
17 October 2016