



Communiqué

October 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.

October 2016 meeting

The Board's October meeting was held in Adelaide.

Stakeholder forum

The Board's meeting coincided with a stakeholder forum hosted by the Board for some of its key stakeholders in Adelaide on 28 October 2016. Representatives from the national and state podiatry associations, heads of podiatry schools, podiatric surgery programs of study, the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC), Chief Allied Health Officers and the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand attended.

The forum provided an opportunity to discuss and explore ways that education providers can progress towards changing the podiatry curriculum so that students will acquire the necessary competencies to safely prescribe scheduled medicines and be qualified for endorsement for scheduled medicines on graduation.

Accreditation and approval of programs of study for the podiatry profession

One of the objectives of the National Law is to facilitate the provision of high quality education and training of health practitioners. The National Law sets out the roles of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority ANZPAC, in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession.

University of Western Australia

After considering a report from ANZPAC about its accreditation of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine program of study offered by the University of Western Australia, the Board approved the program until 31 October 2017 as providing a qualification for the purpose of general registration as a podiatrist.

We're seeking your feedback - consultation 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**.

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

Reminder – have you renewed your registration yet?

The Board reminds podiatrists and podiatric surgeons to renew their registration by 30 November 2016, the registration expiry date for general, specialist and non-practising registration. Under the National Law, podiatrists and podiatric surgeons are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year. Renewal applications received within a month after the expiry date will incur a late fee.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must have their name 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 or work as a podiatrist or podiatric surgeons in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

A series of reminders to renew are being sent to practitioners by AHPRA, on behalf of the Board. The email reminders include links to [online renewal](#) and to a [video](#) which explains the process.

The Board encourages podiatrists and podiatric surgeons to renew online and reminds them to make sure AHPRA has their current contact information to receive future email and hard copy reminders to renew.

Graduate applications for registration: Final-year students can apply online now

Podiatry students who will soon complete an approved program of study can go online now to apply for registration before they graduate.

Graduates need to be registered as a podiatrist with the Board before they start practising and must meet the Board's registration requirements.

The [online graduate application](#) service on the AHPRA website helps to smooth the path from study to work by enabling students to apply for registration four to six weeks before completing their course. All applicants must send some [supporting documents](#) to AHPRA by mail to complete their application.

Health Profession Agreement 2016-20

The Board and AHPRA have published the [2016-20 Health Profession Agreement](#) (HPA) that outlines the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide to the Board during 2016-20. The HPA also provides information about the Board's financial operations and fees.

Publishing the HPA demonstrates the Board's and AHPRA's commitment to transparency and accountability in implementing the National Scheme.

Australian Health Ministers' communiqués published

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has published two communiqués after its most recent meeting, one highlighting the main topics of discussion at the recent COAG Health Council meeting and a second announcing the start of the reviewer for the Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. Go to the [COAG Health Council website](#) to access this information.

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
9 November 2016