



## Communiqué

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November 2016

The Podiatry Board of Australia (Board) meets each month to consider and decide on matters related to its regulatory function under the National Law<sup>1</sup> 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.

### November 2016 meeting

The Board held its November meeting by teleconference.

### Two weeks to go - consultation on endorsement for scheduled medicines closes 9 December

The Board's consultation on a proposed revised endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard and related guidelines is about to close.

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.

Please send us your feedback by **Friday 9 December 2016**.

### Reminder – have you renewed your registration yet?

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons have until 30 November to renew their registration on time.

Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. This is outlined in the National Law. A [fees schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons, whose application for general and/or specialist registration is received on time or during one month late period, can continue practising while their application is processed.

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2016 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [Register of Podiatrists](#), and/or the Board's specialist register in the case of podiatric surgeons, and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia.

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.

### Revised registration standard for recency of practice

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons are reminded the revised registration standard for recency of practice will take effect from 1 December 2016.

The key change to the Board's recency of practice requirements is that a requirement for minimum hours of practice has been introduced. To meet the new standard practitioners must practise in their scope of

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

practice for a minimum of minimum of 450 hours in the previous three years or 150 hours in the previous 12 months.

Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standard by the time they renew their registration in 2017. Read more in the Board's [news item](#).

### **Board newsletter**

The Board has published its latest newsletter on the [Board's website](#). The newsletter was emailed to all podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who have provided AHPRA with an email address.

### **Quarterly registration data**

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

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

### **2015/16 National Scheme annual report**

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their 2015/16 annual report on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2016.

One of the areas of focus for the Board was to ensure podiatrists and podiatric surgeons comply with guidelines around the prevention and control of infection. An analysis by AHPRA of the 251 notifications about podiatrists and podiatric surgeons between 2010 and 2014 revealed a relatively high incidence of issues relating to systems and processes for infection protection and control.

In response, to coincide with the publication of the Board's revised [Guidelines on infection prevention and control](#), the Board published a self-audit tool that practitioners can use to check whether their workplace hygiene complies with the revised guidelines.

The past year saw three revised registrations standards approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. Throughout the year, the Board worked to implement the revised standard for continuing professional development, which took effect on 1 December 2015, the revised standard for professional indemnity insurance arrangements, which took effect on 1 July 2016, and the revised recency of practice standard, which will take effect from 1 December 2016.

For detailed data and information relating to the Board in 2015/16, please see the [2015/16 annual report](#). The report provides a nationwide snapshot of the work of AHPRA and the Boards and highlights a multi profession approach to risk-based regulation with a clear focus on ensuring that Australians have a safe and competent health workforce.

Supplementary tables that break down data across categories such as registrations, notifications, statutory offences, tribunals and appeals, and monitoring and compliance can also be found on the annual report website.

In the coming months, AHPRA and the National Boards will also publish summaries of our work regulating health practitioners in every state and territory, which will be released in late 2016. Expanded, profession-specific summaries will also be released and progressively published from early 2017.

### **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](http://www.ahpra.gov.au). Alternatively, contact AHPRA by an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

Cathy Loughry

Chair

**Podiatry Board of Australia**

28 November 2016