



## Communiqué

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December 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.

### December 2016 meeting

The Board held its December meeting in Melbourne.

### Renewal of registration – late applications

Renewal of registration for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons ended on 30 November 2016.

If you have not yet renewed, you can still apply up until **31 December 2016**, however you will have to pay a late 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 by **31 December**.

Under the National Law, if you do not apply to renew your registration within one month of your registration expiry date, your registration will lapse and your name will be removed from the [Register of Podiatrists](#), and/or the Board's specialist register in the case of podiatric surgeons. This means 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's website under *Registration and endorsement Forms* during **January 2017**. If you are submitting a fast track application in January, you cannot practise until your application is processed and you have received confirmation from AHPRA that your application for registration has been successful.

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

### Registrant data

The Board analyses its registration data and produces statistical breakdowns which it publishes quarterly.

At 30 September 2016, there were 4,666 podiatrists and podiatric surgeons registered in Australia. Of these registered practitioners, 31 held general and specialist registration, 76 had their registration endorsed for scheduled medicines and 97 were registered as non-practising.

The profession has more female registrants than male with a total of 60.6 per cent of registrants being female except in the Northern Territory where 50 per cent of registrants are male.

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

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

## Revised recency of practice registration standard

The Board's revised recency of practice registration standard took effect on 1 December 2016. This means when you renew your registration at the end of November 2017 you must declare whether or not you have met the requirements of the revised standard.

The revised standard applies to all registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons except those who are registered as non-practising.

The key change to the Board's revised recency of practice standard is the requirement for a minimum number of hours of practice. To meet the revised standard's requirements practitioners must practise in their scope of practice for a minimum of minimum of 450 hours in the previous three years or 150 hours in the previous 12 months.

Read more about the revised standard in the [Board's FAQ](#).

## Guidance issued on endorsements about scheduled medicines

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) has recently endorsed *Guidance for National Boards: Applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of endorsements in relation to scheduled medicines under section 14 of the National Law* (the Guidance).

The Guidance is designed to be used by National Boards when preparing applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of an endorsement for scheduled medicines for their profession.

AHPRA and National Boards will be producing information for stakeholders to support the implementation of the Guidance. This is expected to be published in early 2017.

The Guidance is published on the AHPRA website, see [Ministerial directives and communiqués](#).

The Board has an existing approval to endorse the registration of a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon for scheduled medicines. Before a practitioner can be endorsed for scheduled medicines they must meet the requirements set out in the Board's Endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard.

The Board is currently reviewing the *Endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard* and the related guidelines and the public consultation closed on 9 December 2016.

Read more about the Board's review of the registration standard and guidelines [here](#).

## 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.

## Season's Greetings

On behalf of the Board I would like to wish all members of the podiatry profession and our stakeholders a happy and healthy Christmas/festive season.

Cathy Loughry  
Chair

**Podiatry Board of Australia**  
21 December 2016