



## Communiqué

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February 2017

The Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) meets each month to consider and decide on matters related to its regulatory functions 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.

The Board's held its first meeting for 2017 on 22 February in Melbourne.

### **Thank you for your feedback on our public consultation**

The Board's public consultation on a proposed revised Endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard and related guidelines closed in early December 2016.

The Board thanks the members of the profession and other stakeholders who provided feedback on the standard and guidelines.

The Board is reviewing the consultation feedback and expects to submit the documents to Ministerial Council for approval later this year.

### **Regulatory plan and budget for 2017/18**

In December, the Board held a planning session to help inform the development of the 2017/18 regulatory plan. At this meeting, the Board finalised its regulatory plan for 2017/18 and started work on its budget development process for 2017/18.

The updated budget and regulatory plan will be incorporated into the schedule for the health profession agreement (HPA) for 2016-20 later this year. The HPA is published on the Board's website

### **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 respective roles of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority, [the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council](#) (ANZPAC), in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession.

#### **Central Queensland University**

After considering a report from ANZPAC about its accreditation of the Bachelor of Podiatry Practice (Honours) program of study offered by Central Queensland University (CQU) at its Rockhampton campus, the Board approved the program as providing a qualification for the purpose of general registration as a podiatrist.

### **Quarterly registration data**

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

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

The data for the October to December 2016 quarter was recently published on the Board's website under [About>Statistics](#). The report includes a number of statistical breakdowns.

At December 2016, there were a total of 4,805 registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons. Of these 4,666 held general registration; 31 held both general and specialist registration; 77 had their registration endorsed for scheduled medicines; and 108 held non-practising registration.

### Local insights, National Scheme: State and territory summaries published

Individual annual report summaries for each state and territory, offering insights into how the National Scheme is operating in each jurisdiction, have now been published.

Based on the AHPRA and National Boards annual report for 2015/16, the summaries are available [online on AHPRA's website](#).

Information includes applications for registration by profession, outcomes of criminal history checks and segmentation of the registrant base by gender, profession and specialty.

Notifications information includes the number of complaints or concerns received by AHPRA by profession, types of complaint, matters involving immediate action, monitoring and compliance, panels and tribunals, and statutory offence complaints.

### National health workforce dataset - Allied Health Fact Sheets 2015

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in conjunction with the National Boards is responsible for the national registration process for 14 health professions. A subset of data from this annual registration process, together with data from a workforce survey that is voluntarily completed at the time of registration, forms the National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS).

The NHWDS includes demographic and professional practice information for registered health professionals and is de-identified before it can be made publically available.

The NHWDS Allied Health 2015 data has recently been released as a series of fact sheets on each allied health profession, and on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners across all allied health professions – the *NHWDS Allied Health Fact Sheets 2015*. They were published on a new-look website – the [Health Workforce Data website](#) – by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The fact sheets present information specific to each profession, such as information relating to scope of practice, specialties and endorsements where applicable.

Aggregate data is also accessible via the [Health Workforce Data Online Data Tool \(ODT\)](#).

The data included is generated through Workforce Surveys, which are provided by AHPRA on behalf of the Department of Health to all health professionals as part of their yearly renewal of registration. Each survey is slightly different and is tailored to obtain data specific to that profession.

A fact sheet on podiatry is available [online](#).

### Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



### 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**  
8 March 2017