



Communiqué

September/October 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 Law¹ and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué highlights key matters from the Board's September and October 2017 meetings as well as other important information.

The Board held its September 2017 meeting in Hobart and its October 2017 meeting by teleconference.

Breakfast forum in Hobart

To coincide with the September meeting in Hobart, the Board held a breakfast forum for registrants, which was well attended. The Board welcomed the opportunity to meet informally with members of the profession practising in Tasmania.

The Board gave a presentation on the themes identified through an analysis of complaints and/or concerns received by the Board about podiatrists and podiatric surgeons between July 2010 and June 2014.

The Board also met with local stakeholders, which provided an opportunity to discuss the work of the Board and local podiatry practice.

Video about infection prevention and control for patients

The Board has published a [video on infection prevention and control](#) for patients to help them understand what infection prevention and control measures to expect when visiting their podiatrist or podiatric surgeon.

The video was launched to coincide with International Infection Prevention Week (15 – 21 October 2017) and shows the key aspects of infection prevention and control practices that a podiatrist follows during a routine podiatry service, including practising hand hygiene; wearing protective clothing; the use of sterile instruments; as well as how they should handle sharps like scalpels.

It also encourages patients to ask their podiatrist questions about infection prevention and control and helps them know what to do if they have a concern about their podiatrist's infection control practices.

Along with the video, the Board has developed a quick [infection control checklist](#) that provides patients with easy to remember tips to ensure they receive safe care when visiting their podiatrist.

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), about accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession.

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

University of Western Australia

After considering a report from ANZPAC about its accreditation of the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine program of study offered by the University of Western Australia, the Board approved the program until 31 October 2018 as providing a qualification for the purpose of general registration as a podiatrist and a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.

University of Newcastle

After considering a report from ANZPAC about its accreditation of the Bachelor of Podiatry program of study offered by the University of Newcastle, the Board approved the program until 5 October 2022 as providing a qualification for the purpose of general registration as a podiatrist and a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.

Fees set for 2017/18

On 15 September 2017 the Board [announced](#) that it has frozen the registration fee at \$378 for the second consecutive year. The fee applies from 15 September 2017 and covers the registration period for most podiatrists and podiatric surgeons of 1 December 2017 to 30 November 2018. The fee for practitioners whose principal place of practice is New South Wales is \$430.

The National Scheme is funded by practitioners' registration fees. The decision to keep the fee frozen ensures practitioners are not unduly burdened, but still provides sufficient income to allow the Board to carry out its duties and protect the public.

Registration renewal due soon - updating the national register

Registration renewal for the podiatry profession is due by 30 November 2017. This year it will include an extra step.

When completing your renewal online, you will be asked to check that your qualification(s) are recorded correctly on the [national register of practitioners](#).

We are including this as part of online renewal to make it easy for you to confirm and update these details if required. You will be helping us to maintain the integrity of the national register, which helps to protect the public.

The Board recognises the important role of podiatrists in the community

Foot Health Month was a campaign led by the Australian Podiatry Association in October. To coincide with Foot Health Month, the Board released a news item on 17 October 2017 recognising the important contribution of podiatrists to the health and wellbeing of the Australian community.

The Board highlighted the role of the podiatry profession in supporting healthy feet and contributing to the provision of accessible, high quality healthcare services and advice to patients across all stages of their lives to help achieve the best foot health outcomes for individuals. The news item can be found on the [Board's website](#).

Quarterly data profiling Australia's podiatry workforce published

The data for the June to September 2017 quarter was recently published on the Board's website under [About>Statistics](#). The report includes a number of statistical breakdowns.

At 30 September 2017, there were a total of 4,939 registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons. Of these 4,804 held general registration; 31 held both general and specialist registration; 82 had their registration endorsed for scheduled medicines; and 104 held non-practising registration.

Survey on professional behaviour

We're interested in finding out more about how podiatrist's and podiatric surgeon's look for information about professional behaviour. Please [take our anonymous survey](#) by Wednesday **22 November 2017** to let us know.

We will use the information collected to inform our work on policies, codes and guidelines and how we communicate with practitioners about their professional obligations.

National regulation of paramedicine moves a step closer

The national regulation of paramedicine moves a step closer with the [appointment of the first Paramedicine Board of Australia](#).

The Health Ministers made the announcement of the nine person board at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council meeting held on 19 October 2017. Paramedicine will be the first profession to be regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) since 2012.

Registration of paramedicine is due to commence from late 2018. Paramedics will be able to register once and practise anywhere in Australia. The title 'paramedic' will also become a 'protected title' – only people registered with the Board will be able to call themselves a paramedic.

More information, including news about the [implementation of the regulation of paramedics](#) and the [newly appointed Board members](#) is available on the Paramedicine Board of Australia's website.

Graduates invited to apply online for general registration

AHPRA is now calling for final-year students of podiatry to apply for registration online.

Those on the Student Register who will complete their [approved program of study](#) at the end of 2017 have been sent an email inviting them to [apply online](#) for registration four to six weeks before finishing their course.

Students are encouraged to read the information on AHPRA's website under [Graduate applications](#). Certain applicants will also need to apply for an [international criminal history check](#).

Graduates can start practising as soon as their name is published on the [national register](#).

Co-Chairs announced to help lead the way for the first ever National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy

The National Scheme is pleased to announce the appointment of co-Chairs for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health Strategy group.

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, CEO of ABSTARR Consulting and Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia have been appointed as co-Chairs of the group. The strategy group has been brought together to develop the National Scheme's first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health strategy.

AHPRA, the 14 National Boards responsible for regulating the health professions, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations have committed to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy with the vision of: Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's health system is the norm, as defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips was nominated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations to be co-Chair. Gregory Phillips is from the Waanyi and Jaru peoples, and comes from Cloncurry and Mount Isa in North-West Queensland. Dr Joanna Flynn was nominated by leaders of the National Scheme to be co-Chair.

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips and Dr Flynn agree that partnerships are fundamental in this work. 'With more than 700,000 Australians registered by the National Boards and a commitment from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and the National Scheme to work collaboratively there is a unique opportunity for real change to the health outcomes of all Australians,' said Associate Professor Phillips.

'We are grateful for the strong relationships we have with our partners in this work, particularly the expert guidance we have received from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders. This work

cannot be done with National Boards acting in isolation and I am looking forward to making this new strategy a reality through my role as co-Chair,' said Dr Flynn.

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 or update your contact information by logging in to the [online services portal](#) on 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.

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. Alternatively, contact AHPRA by an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
10 November 2017