



## Communiqué

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November 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 any key matters from the Board's November 2017 meeting as well as other important information.

The Board held its November 2017 meeting in Melbourne.

### **Board newsletter published**

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 the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) with an email address.

### **Registration renewal reminder**

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who did not renew their registration by 30 November 2017 are now in the late renewal period and have until 31 December to apply. Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. A [fees schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

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

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2017 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 in Australia.

A 'fast-track' application for registration can be made, but only in January 2018 and the practitioner cannot practise until it is processed and the national register is updated, which can take time.

### **Board participates in CLEAR congress and joint research seminar in Melbourne**

The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) held the [Fifth International Congress on Professional and Occupational Regulation](#) in Melbourne in November. Representatives of National Boards and AHPRA attended. The congress provided attendees with an opportunity to discuss regulatory issues with other international regulatory stakeholders who share global perspectives on licensure and regulation and to gain insight into the latest standards and best practices in the world of regulation.

A joint [research seminar](#) between AHPRA and the UK Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) was also held in Melbourne to coincide with the CLEAR congress. The research seminar looked at how both regulators learn from data to improve regulatory effectiveness, patient safety and professional standards internationally. Representatives of National Boards and AHPRA attended the seminar.

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

## AHPRA and National Boards release annual report

The Annual Report for AHPRA and National Boards reveals how the Board has worked to protect the public in 2016/17. The report is a comprehensive record of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) for the 12 months to 30 June 2017.

The podiatry health workforce grew by 5.8% to just under 5,000 registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons. The podiatry profession makes up 0.7% of all registered health practitioners in the National Accreditation and Registration Scheme (the National Scheme). As at 30 June 2017, there were 1,559 students on the Student Register.

For more information visit the [Annual Report microsite](#) on the AHPRA website.

AHPRA and the Board will soon be publishing a summary of our work regulating the podiatry profession.

## Update on the Independent Accreditation Systems Review

In October 2016 health ministers commissioned Professor Michael Woods, former Productivity Commissioner, to carry out the Independent Accreditation Systems Review (the Review). Following public consultations Professor Woods has prepared [draft recommendations](#) for ministers. Many of the reforms in his draft report would, in their current form, require significant changes to our legislation and how we manage the accreditation of courses leading to registration as well as assessment of internationally-qualified practitioners.

In response to the draft recommendations, AHPRA and National Boards have published a joint submission to the Review on the [AHPRA website](#). In summary we propose that a more effective and efficient approach would be to make changes to the roles of AHPRA, National Boards and Accreditation Councils, rather than create new regulatory bodies with the likely cost and complexity this could create. We believe that this would deliver the changes required to support the professional health workforce required by Australia.

The joint submission includes additional responses from four participating National Boards – Chiropractic, Medical, Optometry and Psychology. The Pharmacy Board made a separate [submission](#) which is published on its [website](#).

AHPRA and National Boards look forward to the Review's final report and health ministers' response in due course. A news item including a high level summary of key aspects of the joint submission has been published on the [AHPRA website](#).

## 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](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**  
30 November 2017