



## Communiqué

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February 2018

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 February 2018 meeting as well as other important information.

The Board held its February 2018 meeting in Melbourne.

### **Regulatory plan and budget for 2018/19**

In December, the Board held a planning session to help inform the development of the 2018/19 regulatory plan. At this meeting, the Board finalised its regulatory plan for 2018/19 and started work on its budget development process for 2018/19.

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 accreditation function is the primary way of achieving this. 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.

#### **Charles Sturt University**

After considering a report from ANZPAC about its accreditation of the Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine (Pass and Honours) programs of study offered by Charles Sturt University, the Board approved the accredited programs of study until 19 January 2023 as providing a qualification for the purpose of general registration as a podiatrist, as well as a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.

#### **University of Western Australia**

After considering a report from ANZPAC about its accreditation of the Doctor of Clinical Podiatry program of study offered by the University of Western Australia, the Board approved the accredited program of study until 21 November 2019 as providing a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.

### **Self-assessment tool launched to help practitioners and advertisers**

A self-assessment tool to help practitioners and advertisers check and correct their advertising so that it complies with their professional and legal obligations has been launched.

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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 tool is easy to use and asks users to consider a number of questions about their advertising which can help them understand if it is in breach of the National Law. Advertisers' legal obligations are explained in the [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#).

The self-assessment tool is the latest in a series of [advertising resources](#) developed by AHPRA and National Boards for health practitioners, healthcare providers and other advertisers of regulated health services to use to help them comply with the law.

Advertising responsibly and within the law supports patients to receive accurate and reliable information about healthcare services that helps them make informed decisions about their healthcare choices.

This work is part of a broader strategy – an [Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy for the National Scheme](#) – which started last year. The strategy has met a number of its targets since its launch, including clear, concise and helpful correspondence about advertising complaints and new resources such as a [summary of advertising obligations](#), [frequently asked questions](#), tips on [words to be wary about](#) and examples of [compliant and non-compliant advertising](#).

The [self-assessment tool](#) is available in the *Advertising resources* section on the AHPRA website.

### **Late applications accepted for National Board vacancies**

Late applications for practitioner member vacancies on the Podiatry Board of Australia will be accepted until 5pm on 9 March 2018.

The closing date has been extended to give registered practitioners a bit more time to express interest in being a part of health practitioner regulation nationally.

Triennial (three-yearly) recruitment rounds are an opportunity for Australian Health Ministers to consider reappointments and new appointments, so that National Boards have the best mix of experience, new and diverse views that will help inform their regulatory decision-making.

More information about the vacancies and how to apply is on the [AHPRA website](#).

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

Annual report summaries for each state and territory, offering insights into how the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is operating across Australia, have been published.

Based on the AHPRA and National Boards annual report for 2016/17, the summaries are available online.

The summaries include information about 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 profession, types of complaint, matters involving immediate action, monitoring and compliance, panels and tribunals, and statutory offence complaints.

Copies of reports can be downloaded from the 2016/17 Annual Report [microsite](#).

### **New research framework launched to improve patient safety**

In January, National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) published a research framework to help transform health practitioner regulation to improve patient safety.

[A research framework for the National Scheme: Optimising our investment in research](#) sets out the research priorities and principles for National Boards and AHPRA to focus their research efforts.

The framework includes the priority research areas of: defining harms and risks related to the practice of regulated health professions, regulatory taxonomy or classification scheme, risk factors for complaints and/or poor practitioner performance, evidence for standards, codes and/or guidelines, evaluating regulatory interventions, stakeholder satisfaction and engagement, work readiness and workforce capacity and distribution.

It has been published to provide a solid base to facilitate risk-based research and evaluation activities, with a clear focus on translating the outcomes of research into initiatives that will inform regulatory policy development and decision-making to maximise the public benefit.

#### 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.

#### 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.



Cathy Loughry  
Chair  
**Podiatry Board of Australia**  
5 March 2018