



Communiqué

May 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 Law¹ and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué highlights any key matters from the Board's 2 May 2018 meeting as well as other important information.

The Board held its 2 May 2018 meeting in Melbourne.

Revised registration standard for endorsement for scheduled medicines takes effect on 1 August 2018

A revised endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard and associated guidelines will take effect on 1 August 2018. Ministerial Council approved the registration standard on 2 February 2018.

The revised registration standard will replace the current standard and will apply to podiatrists and podiatric surgeons applying to have their registration endorsed for scheduled medicines as well as those whose registration is already endorsed for scheduled medicines.

To help the podiatry profession prepare for the revised standard and guidelines coming into effect they have been published in advance and are available on the [Board's website](#).

The Board has also published:

- information about transitional arrangements for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who are working towards an endorsement under Pathway 2 of the current registration standard but haven't applied for endorsement when the new standard takes effect on 1 August 2018
- FAQ which include information about the changes to the registration standard, guidelines and the *National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List*, and
- flowcharts that provide a snapshot of the two new pathways to endorsement and the transitional arrangements.

Further information to support the implementation of the new standard will be published on the Board's website on 1 August 2018, when the standard takes effect.

Board newsletter published

On 30 April 2018 the Board published its latest newsletter on its [website](#). The newsletter was emailed to all podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who have provided the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) with a valid email address.

Quarterly data profiling Australia's podiatry workforce published

The data for the January to March 2018 quarter is published on the Board's website under [About>Statistics](#). The report includes a number of statistical breakdowns.

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

At 31 March 2018, there were 5,134 registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons. Of these 4,994 held general registration, 35 held both general and specialist registration and 105 held non-practising registration. There were 88 practitioners who had their registration endorsed for scheduled medicines.

Public consultation on review of accreditation arrangements – assignment of accreditation functions

National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are consulting on future accreditation arrangements from mid-2019, when the current term of assignment of accreditation functions ends.

Public consultation has started and will close at **12pm on Monday 14 May 2018**.

The National Law sets out the accreditation functions in the National Scheme; these include developing accreditation standards, accrediting programs of study against approved accreditation standards and assessing overseas qualified practitioners.

It is each National Board's decision as to whether the accreditation functions for the profession it regulates will be carried out by an external accreditation body or a committee established by the Board. If the National Board decides on an external organisation, AHPRA enters a contract with them which specifies the scope of accreditation functions and sets out associated reporting requirements and funding arrangements. If the National Board decides on a committee, these matters are specified in terms of reference.

National Boards will take feedback into account in making decisions about the assignment of accreditation functions from mid-2019. Feedback will also be considered in the next phase of the review, which will involve establishing new agreements with external accreditation authorities and terms of reference for accreditation committees.

The consultation paper is available under [Current consultations](#), and AHPRA and the National Boards invite feedback from practitioners, stakeholders and the community.

Draft guideline for informing the Board where you practise

The Board has published a consultation paper on the draft guideline for informing a National Board about where you practise.

Public consultation has started and will close on **25 May 2018**.

In September 2017, the Queensland Parliament passed the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The Bill contained a set of amendments to the National Law except in Western Australia. Corresponding legislation has also been passed in Western Australia.

These amendments include changes to the information a registered health practitioner is required to provide about their practice arrangements when requested by the National Board (referred to as 'practice information').

The draft guideline has been developed to help podiatrists, podiatric surgeons and other registered health practitioners to provide practice information in a way that meets their obligations under the National Law.

The consultation paper is available under [Current consultations](#), and the Board invites feedback from practitioners, stakeholders and the community.

Vexing not vexatious: Report finds more risk in not reporting

New independent research commissioned by AHPRA takes a first international look at vexatious complaints, finding there is more risk from people not reporting concerns than from making dubious complaints.

It also found that while being on the receiving end of a complaint is tough – the complaint is much more likely to be vexing than vexatious.

The report will be used to inform best practice for reducing, identifying, and managing vexatious complaints and helps to identify opportunities to work with others to help reduce their frequency and adverse consequences.

For further information read the research summary report [Reducing, indentifying and managing vexatious complaints](#) on the AHPRA website.

Read about progress on the first ever National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy

The health strategy group charged with developing the National Scheme's first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy has held its first meeting for 2018 and will publish its latest communiqué soon.

AHPRA, the 15 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, CEO of ABSTARR Consulting, and Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia, are co-Chairs of the health strategy group. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group publish communiqués of its work. These are available on the [Advisory group page](#) of the AHPRA website.

This work is happening in conjunction with the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan for AHPRA.

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group is scheduled for July 2018.

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.

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Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
9 May2018