



Communiqué

March 2019

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 (national scheme).

This communiqué highlights any key matters from the Board's 27 March 2019 meeting, as well as other important information.

The Board held its 27 March 2019 meeting in Melbourne.

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 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.

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

After considering a report from ANZPAC about its accreditation of the Bachelor of Podiatry and Bachelor of Podiatry (Honours) programs offered by the QUT at its Kelvin Grove campus, the Board approved until 6 March 2024 the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purpose of general registration and a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of endorsement for scheduled medicines.

Have your say: How should we define 'cultural safety'?

AHPRA, the National Boards and Accreditation Authorities in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) which regulates registered health practitioners in Australia have partnered with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health leaders and the National Health Leadership Forum (NHLF) to release a [public consultation](#).

Together, they are seeking feedback on a proposed definition of 'cultural safety' to develop an agreed, national baseline definition that can be used as a foundation for embedding cultural safety across all functions in the National Scheme and for use by the National Health Leadership Forum.

In total, there are 44 organisations represented in this consultation, which is being coordinated by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group (the Strategy Group), which is convened by AHPRA, and the NHLF.

The consultation is a continuation of the work by the National Scheme's Strategy Group that has achieving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as its overall goal. Members of the Group include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health leaders and members from AHPRA, National Boards, Accreditation Authorities and NSW Councils.

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

The six-week consultation is open to the public. Everyone interested in helping to shape the definition of 'cultural safety' that will be used in the National Scheme and by NHLF members is warmly invited to share their views.

The [consultation](#) is open until 5:00pm, Wednesday 15 May 2019.

Help define this important term for the National Scheme. For more information read the [media release](#) on the AHPRA website.

Titles in health advertising – how to get it right

A new resource to help practitioners understand their legal obligations when using titles in health advertising addresses the uncertainty some podiatrists might have around this issue.

Misuse of a protected title, specialist title or endorsements is an offence under sections 113-119 of the National Law or may constitute behaviour for which health, conduct or performance action may be taken against a registered health practitioner under Part 8 of the National Law.

However, advertisers should also be aware that while use of some titles may not necessarily breach title protections under sections 113-119, they may be considered false, misleading or deceptive under the advertising provisions in the National Law (section 133).

The titles tool will help practitioners understand how titles can be used in advertising. It also outlines some of the common pitfalls that can result in titles being considered misleading under the National Law.

The titles tool is the latest in a series of [resources and support materials](#) developed by AHPRA and National Boards to help health practitioners, healthcare providers and other advertisers of regulated health services check and correct their advertising so it complies with the National Law.

The [titles tool](#) is available in the Advertising resources section of the AHPRA website.

COAG Health Council communiqué

The COAG Health Council met on Friday 8 March in Adelaide. Items of relevance included a plan to develop a medical workforce strategy, cultural safety for health professionals, and options for a nationally consistent approach to the regulation of spinal manipulation of children. A copy of the Communiqué can be accessed [here](#).

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 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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Cylie Williams
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
8 April 2019