



Communiqué

October 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 aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and matters regarding the National Scheme

Public consultation open on key guidelines and framework

Three consultations have recently been launched on revised guidance to help practitioners and others understand their mandatory notification obligations, understand their obligations when advertising a regulated health service and to support a responsive and risk-based approach to supervised practice.

The Board, together with other National Boards and AHPRA, are consulting on revised policy guidance on three major areas to replace current guidance, including:

- revised *Guidelines: Mandatory notifications about registered health practitioners* and *Guidelines: Mandatory notifications about health students*
- revised *Guidelines on advertising regulated health services*, and
- a proposed *Supervised practice framework*.

Read the full media release about these consultations on the [AHPRA website](#).

To ensure the community, practitioners and stakeholders have the chance to respond to all three consultations the closing dates for public consultation have been staggered and will close as follows:

- Public consultation on the mandatory notifications guidelines will close on 6 November 2019.
- Public consultation on the advertising guidelines will close on 26 November 2019.
- Public consultation on the supervised practice framework will close on 17 December 2019.

The consultation papers are available on the [Current consultations](#) page on the Board website and feedback is invited from practitioners, other stakeholders and the community.

Consultation open on blood borne viruses guidelines

The Board, in partnership with the Dental, Medical, Nursing and Midwifery and Paramedicine Boards of Australia, has opened consultation on the draft *Guidelines for registered health practitioners and students in relation to blood borne viruses* (the draft guidelines).

The draft guidelines are intended to support practitioners in these professions to comply with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia *Australian national guidelines for the management of healthcare workers living with blood borne viruses and healthcare workers who perform exposure prone procedures at risk of exposure to blood borne viruses* (the CDNA guidelines).

All registered health practitioners who perform exposure-prone procedures, or who are living with a blood borne virus, need to comply with the CDNA guidelines. The Boards have developed the draft guidelines to

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

support health practitioners and students to decide whether they perform exposure-prone procedures in their practice and if so, how to meet the requirements of the CDNA guidelines.

Feedback on the draft guidelines is invited from health practitioners, employers and the wider public. To have your say, please visit the [Current consultations](#) page on the Board website. Consultation closes on 1 November 2019.

Changes to renewal questions for podiatric surgeons

The Communicable Diseases Network Australia updated the *Australian national guidelines for the management of healthcare workers living with blood borne viruses and healthcare workers who perform exposure prone procedures at risk of exposure to blood borne viruses* (the CDNA guidelines).

In response to the updates to the CDNA guidelines, the Board will be asking podiatric surgeons at registration and renewal whether they perform exposure prone procedures, and if so, to answer additional questions about compliance with the CDNA guidelines.

Podiatrists will not be asked these questions because the routine procedures undertaken by podiatrists, such as a nail avulsion, are considered non-exposure prone procedures.

The CDNA guidelines and helpful information sheets for practitioners, including information about exposure prone procedures and non-exposure prone procedures are available on the Department of Health's [website](#).

The Board sets fees for 2019/20

The Board has frozen the registration fee at \$378 for the fourth consecutive year. The fee for practitioners whose principal place of practice is New South Wales is also \$378.

Read the full media release about the fees on the [Board's website](#).

A full [fee schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

Keeping the notification process in perspective – a practitioner view

Keep perspective; and seek help. That's the message from a new video launched by AHPRA and National Boards.

This video, the second practitioner experience video in a new series of videos, provides a first-hand account of the notification process from a practitioner's perspective.

The videos aim to share practitioners' experiences, recognising what are common reactions, while proactively encouraging practitioners to focus on likely outcomes and seek support.

The latest video highlights the importance of getting support during the notification process. Read the full media release for the new video on the [AHPRA website](#).

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons and their support networks are encouraged to use this new resource if they are involved in the notification process.

You can view this video, and the other videos, on the [AHPRA website](#), [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#) channels.

The videos sit alongside other written resources available on the AHPRA website, including information about [notifications](#) and [understanding the notifications experience](#).

New page on Board website links to all advertising resources

The Board has a new page on its website from which all advertising resources can be accessed.

Since the launch of the [Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy](#) for the National Scheme in April 2017, several helpful tools and examples of non-compliant advertising have been published in the [Advertising resources](#) section of the AHPRA website.

The Board's new [Advertising a regulated health service](#) webpage will enable practitioners to quickly find information about advertising from the one location, including the *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services* and the other advertising resources

Board member recognised in Queens Birthday honours

Dr Janice 'Jan' Davies, a community member of the Board, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's Queen's Birthday honours.

The honour was awarded to Dr Davies for service to community health. In addition to her role on the Board, Dr Davies is a member of the Victorian Registration and Notification Committee of the Dental Board of Australia. She is also an independent healthcare consultant and has been involved in a number of organisations including the National Quality Dementia Care Initiative, Dementia Australia (formerly Alzheimer's Australia), and the National Institute of Clinical Studies.

The Board is delighted that Dr Davies' contribution to the community and the work of the National Scheme has been recognised and congratulates Jan for her accomplishment.

Newsletter from the Board

The Board has released its latest newsletter. Read it on the Board's [Newsletters page](#).

Quarterly registration data

The Board's quarterly registration data to 30 June 2019 is published on its website. Read the latest report [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.

Follow AHPRA on social media

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A/Prof Cylie Williams
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
04 October 2019