

Project to develop shared entry-level qualifying statements for the physiotherapy profession in Australia and New Zealand

Stage 2 Communique – 8 August 2014

Background

The Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand (PBNZ) and the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (PhysioBA) are working together on a joint project to establish the shared statements that describe the threshold level of practice for entry to the physiotherapy profession in Australia and New Zealand.

ARETE Group Pty Ltd has been contracted to undertake the joint project which commenced at the end of January 2014 and will be completed in March 2015.

The working title of the shared statements is *Shared entry-level qualifying statements for the physiotherapy profession in Australia and New Zealand* (qualifying statements).

The overall objective of the project is to develop and publish evidence based, stakeholder supported qualifying statements for the physiotherapy profession in New Zealand and Australia that will replace the *Physiotherapy Competencies for Physiotherapy Practice in New Zealand (2009)* and the *Australian Standards for Physiotherapy (2006)*.

The qualifying statements will describe the threshold competence for all registered physiotherapists in Australia and New Zealand and will be used by the PBNZ and PhysioBA to:

- establish threshold competence that must be achieved by new graduates from programs in Australia and New Zealand in order to be registered
- establish threshold competence that must be achieved by individuals who completed their initial physiotherapy qualifications in other countries in order to be registered in Australia and New Zealand
- establish threshold competence that must be achieved by individuals who were previously registered as a physiotherapist in Australia or New Zealand in order to be re-registered for practice, and
- establish threshold competence that must be achieved by registrants whose competence to practice is being evaluated, for example if the PBNZ or PhysioBA receives a complaint or notification about a practitioner.

The first draft of the qualifying statements has been developed and stakeholder consultation will commence in September.

ARETE has engaged with more than 200 interested members of the profession in Australia and New Zealand to progressively develop the first draft of the qualifying statements for the PBNZ and PhysioBA.



After an initial closed consultation process with key stakeholders in September 2014, the PBNZ and PhysioBA will undertake at least six weeks of broad ranging stakeholder and public consultation. It is anticipated that this will commence in October 2014. The draft qualifying statements will be published on the PBNZ and PhysioBA websites during this consultation.

Further information about the project is available by writing to physio.project@aretegroup.com.au

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Shinkfield".

Paul Shinkfield
Chair, Physiotherapy Board
of Australia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Mueller".

Janice Mueller
Chair, Physiotherapy Board
of New Zealand