

Communique

Sixth meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia 26 March 2010

The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. At its sixth meeting, held in Melbourne, the Board made decisions about a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme. This Communique aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

Communication

The Board is keen to retain the valuable expertise of existing State and Territory Board members in the national registration scheme and will write to the State and Territory Physiotherapy Registration Boards, thanking the Chair and the members for their contribution thus far, and inviting the Chair and Board members to express interest in participating on panels and working groups that the National Board may establish under the National Law. The Board is looking forward to continued dialogue with the State and Territory Boards to ensure not only a smooth transition but also to develop effective processes and procedures to ensure the new scheme operates efficiently after 1 July 2010.

April letter to registered physiotherapists

The Physiotherapy Board of Australia will be writing to every registered physiotherapist in late April, to support the transition of all registrants into the national scheme. The letter will explain each practitioner's registration type from 1 July 2010 and explain what physiotherapists will have to do to ensure a safe transition to the national scheme. The letter will detail the information that will appear on the online national Register of Physiotherapists.

The Board made a range of decisions about this transitioning process. In general, physiotherapists will transition to the type of registration that matches their current registration. The name of some registration categories will change. ***It is therefore essential that all registrants check the registration type allocated to them in the April letter and provide feedback to AHPRA if there are any errors.*** If registrants do not notify AHPRA of any necessary changes to information contained in the April letter before 1 July 2010, they will be required to register afresh under the national law and to provide evidence to support their application.

The Board is also urging all physiotherapists to make sure the contact details held by their current State or Territory Board are accurate and up to date before 30 June 2010 to avoid the need to register afresh after 1 July 2010.

Conditions, undertakings and reprimands on the Register

The National Law requires the Board to publish conditions imposed and undertakings accepted from physiotherapists on the Register of Physiotherapists. It also allows the Board to decide to not record a condition imposed or an undertaking accepted when the practitioner has an impairment, if it is necessary to protect the practitioner's privacy and there is not an overriding public interest for the condition or the details of the undertaking to be recorded. The Board will consider developing a policy approach to this issue, consistent with the National Law.

Registration Fees

The Board has set national registration fees for 2010-2011 and will communicate these to the profession later in April, with the transition mailout. The Board's decisions were reached after much deliberation, and were based on financial

advice provided both internally and externally. The Board is mindful of the need to maintain a viable fiscal position in order to discharge its responsibilities under the national law.

Update on codes and guidelines

The Board's consultation paper on codes and guidelines was released on 10 March 2010 and comments are due on 9 April 2010. The consultation paper seeks feedback on:

- A code of conduct for the physiotherapy profession
- Guidelines on mandatory reporting
- Guidelines on Advertising
- Guidelines on CPD
- Guidelines for physiotherapists in a supervisory role
- Guidelines on the use of medicines
- Guidelines for infection control
- Guidelines for scheduled medicines endorsements.

The Board encourages all interested physiotherapists to provide feedback on the proposed codes and guidelines. The consultation paper is available at: <http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au/>

Update on registration standards

The Board is expecting to hear the outcomes of Ministerial Council's consideration of the Board's proposed registration standards very soon. The final standards and information about specialist registration will be published on the Board's website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au soon after Health Ministers' decision.

Regular updates and FAQs will be published on the National Board website (www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au).