

## Communique

### Seventh meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia 30 April 2010

The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. At its seventh 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 Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

### State and Territory Boards

The National Board remains committed to retaining the valuable expertise of existing State and Territory Board members in the national registration scheme. It invites the Chair and members of existing Boards to express interest in participating on panels and working groups that the National Board may establish under the National Law. We would encourage all interested members to please forward an expression of interest to the Board's Executive Officer, Jill Humphreys, at [jill.humphreys@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:jill.humphreys@ahpra.gov.au).

The Chair of the National Board, Mr Glenn Ruscoe, is planning meetings with each State and Territory Board in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition to the National Law and to begin to establish an ongoing and effective working relationship with State and Territory Boards.

### Letter to registered physiotherapists

The Physiotherapy Board of Australia has written to every registered physiotherapist, to support the transition of all registrants into the national scheme. The letter explains each practitioner's registration type from 1 July 2010 and explains what physiotherapists will have to do to ensure a safe transition to the national scheme. The letter details 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 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 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 has developed a policy approach to this issue, consistent with the National Law. If a physiotherapist has health conditions recorded on their registration, the following wording will appear: "This practitioner's registration is subject to conditions that relate to his/her personal health. These conditions are not publicly available due to privacy considerations."

## Registration Fees

The Board has set provisional national registration fees for 2010-2011. The final fees will be announced in June, when the Board has received details of the assets and liabilities of existing State and Territory Boards.

## Update on codes and guidelines

The Board's consultation paper on codes and guidelines was released March and a substantial amount of useful feedback was received. The feedback has been analysed and considered by the Board and incorporated where possible. The consultation paper sought 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.

The Board thanks all the individual physiotherapists and other organisations for providing their well considered feedback on the proposed codes and guidelines. The finalised Codes and Guidelines will soon be available at:

<http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au/>

## Limited Registration Guideline and Standard

A further consultation paper on Guidelines and a Standard for Limited Registration will be released for consultation shortly with a four-week turnaround for submissions. The paper will be published on the website at [www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au) in the coming days.

## Update on registration standards

Ministerial Council considered the Board's proposed registration standards and have announced their decisions. All registration standards except the standard for specialist status for physiotherapists have been approved and have been published on the Board's website at [www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au). Ministers deferred their decision on the approval of specialist status for physiotherapists until criteria against which to measure the proposals are developed. Developments in this area will be communicated on the website and in communiqués.

The Board continues to publish regular updates to support the transition to national registration, published on the website at [www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au).