

## Communiqué

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The 34th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the National Board) was held 14 September 2012 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of the annual National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting. The meeting was the first with the changed membership structure outlined in last month's communiqué.

This communiqué outlines the issues discussed and decisions made by the Board at its meeting and other points of interest. The Board publishes this communiqué on its website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in the work of the Board.

### National registration and accreditation scheme combined meeting

The purpose of this annual meeting was to take stock, share ideas and innovations, identify future challenges and identify actions to keep improving how the National Scheme is implemented. It brings together members of all fourteen National Boards, representatives of NSW councils, members of the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA staff, and representatives of the different professions' accreditation authorities, including from New Zealand.

This year's meeting saw a focus on a range of important regulatory issues such as practitioner performance and competence, engaging with health consumers, and identifying the opportunities for future work with key external stakeholders including Health Workforce Australia and government.

### New Board members

The Board was pleased to welcome three new members to their first meeting in September: Mr Peter Kerr, community member from New South Wales; Lyn Green, community member from Queensland, and; Kim Gibson, practitioner member from Western Australia.

The National Board has a new Chair who commenced on 1 September, Mr Paul Shinkfield.

In August, the Board farewelled its inaugural Chair, Mr Glenn Ruscoe, and two community members, Joanne Muller and Susan Brady. Their significant contributions and leadership were commended.

### Consultation paper

The Board has released a consultation paper on the review of the accreditation function for the Physiotherapy Board of Australia. An identical review is being conducted by the other 9 professions which commenced in the National Scheme on 1 July 2010.

Submissions from interested parties are invited until **2 November 2012**. The consultation paper can be found on the Board's website, [www.physiotherapyboard.com.au](http://www.physiotherapyboard.com.au) under the *News and Events* tab.

### Registration renewal information

The Board will be releasing its next e-newsletter and AHPRA registration renewal information in coming days.

To ensure that future editions of the newsletter reach you, please check your contact details and update them if necessary. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

To update your contact details, go to [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au), click online services, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

### **Community engagement forums to be held soon**

As part of the community engagement strategy for all National Boards, a partnership has been established with the Consumer Health Forum of Australia (CHF) to engage with health consumers and the broader community. CHF is the national peak body representing the interests of Australian healthcare consumers.

A series of state-level community forums have been scheduled between October and December, providing an opportunity to brief members from the community (non practitioners) on how health practitioner regulation works and what it offers the community. More information about the forums will be published on the AHPRA website shortly.

### **Conclusion**

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at [www.physiotherapy.gov.au](http://www.physiotherapy.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

For more detail or with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

### **Paul Shinkfield**

Chair

19 September 2012