

Communiqué

The 39th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 26 April 2013 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting as well as other points of interest.

We publish this communiqué on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

PhysioBA Committee Structure

When the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme began, the Physiotherapy Board of Australia established a committee in each jurisdiction, known as the state or territory Board of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia. The state/territory boards perform tasks delegated by the National Board to deal with registration and notification matters in each jurisdiction. These state and territory boards successfully navigated a smooth transition to the new scheme for physiotherapists.

As part of its continuous improvement activities and in line with the objectives of the National Law to operate in the most transparent, efficient and effective manner, the National Board has carefully reviewed its committee structure. It has decided to move towards a national structure to handle registration and notification matters. An implementation plan will be developed to support the transition to a national committee structure. Further updates on this structural change for the board will be communicated as information is available.

Consultations

We have released a consultation paper on the following key documents:

- *Code of conduct for physiotherapists*
- *Guidelines for mandatory notification*
- *Guidelines for the advertising of regulated health services, and*
- *Social media policy.*

These are critical documents that apply to physiotherapists, as employees or employers.

We encourage you to review the documents which are published under the *News* tab on the Board's website and provide your feedback.

Other key documents – continuing professional development standard and guideline, recency of practice standard and guideline – are undergoing a three-yearly review and will be published for consultation in approximately August. We will notify you when they are released.

Call for expressions of interest - List of approved persons for panel appointments

The Board is calling for expressions of interest from experienced physiotherapy practitioners and community members interested in being included in the approved persons list for panel appointments. The National Law allows National Boards to convene health panels and performance and professional standards panels, when required, to hold hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters for individual registered practitioners. Such panels consist of members chosen from a Board-approved persons list. Recruitment in accordance with section 183(2) of the National Law, to the extent possible, will exclude individuals whose residence or principal place of practice is in a co-regulatory jurisdiction (i.e.

NSW). Appointments to the approved persons list are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment, and are expected to begin in mid-2013.

To download the candidate information pack, visit [Panel member recruitment](#) on the Board website. Applications should be received by 5.00pm AEST on **Friday 17 May 2013**.

Continuing professional development registration standard and guidelines

The *Registration standard for continuing professional development* (cpd) is published on the board's website (www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au).

Recent trends in registration renewals have indicated that some registrants are not aware of the scope of activities that can be counted towards the required 20 hours of continuing professional development for registered physiotherapists. The [guideline](#) provides clarification and examples of what can be counted towards continuing professional development and a template for recording cpd activities and reflections.

Conclusion

We publish a range of information about registration and our expectations of you as a physiotherapist on our website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

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

Paul Shinkfield

Chair

13 May 2013