

Communiqué

The 45th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 18 October 2013 at the national AHPRA 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 to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Newsletter

The Board has recently published its quarterly registrant newsletter. A copy was emailed to all physiotherapists who have provided AHPRA with an email address.

Review of standards, guidelines and codes

As the National Board for the physiotherapy profession we continue to review the registration standards, guidelines and codes developed before the National Scheme began. An important part of this process is consultation.

We undertake two phases of consultation - preliminary and public.

During preliminary consultation we release the paper to a small group of stakeholders, which allows us to 'road test' the feasibility of proposed changes as well as consider feedback that may be incorporated into the next phase.

Public consultations are widely communicated in communiqués and published on our website. This stage is open to everyone.

We have released the following board specific registration standards for preliminary consultation:

- *Continuing professional development registration standard*
- *Continuing professional development guideline*
- *Professional indemnity insurance registration standard*
- *Recency of practice registration standard*
- *Recency of practice guideline, and*
- *Professional indemnity insurance registration standard.*

A public consultation phase on these six standards and guidelines will follow.

The following registration standards have been released for public consultation:

- *Criminal history registration standard, and*
- *English language skills registration standard.*

We invite all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to participate in the consultation and provide feedback on these standards by 23 December 2013.

This consultation is available on the Board website under [Current consultations](#).

Audit

AHPRA and the Board are developing a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with the mandatory registration standards.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration; they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that the Board and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking these declarations made by a random sample of practitioners. The audit help to make sure that practitioners are meeting the required standards of practice and provide important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Auditing of all professions has commenced. If you are selected for audit you will be notified in writing and requested to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the standard.

Further information will be available soon on the Board's website – www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au.

Quarterly data

One of the benefits of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) is that there are now national registers where information is published about every registered health practitioner in Australia. It is now possible to produce accurate reports about the number of practitioners registered in each profession in Australia.

In 2012, the Board began publishing quarterly data profiling Australia's physiotherapy workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants such as type of registration held, principal place of practice and registrant age. The latest quarterly report is now available on the Board's website under [About](#). All the Boards publish similar information about their health profession which is available on each Board's website.

Registration renewal for physiotherapists

Physiotherapists are due to renew their registration by 30 November each year. AHPRA, on behalf of the Board, is sending a series of renewal reminders to physiotherapists before this date.

If you haven't renewed already, please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the *Your Account* tab on the top right of the AHPRA website.

To check your contact details, go to the Your Account link, 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.

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 AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Paul Shinkfield

Chair

23 October 2013