

Communiqué

The 37th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 14 December 2012 at the AHPRA National office in Melbourne.

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

Annual Report

The annual report of the AHPRA and the National Boards has been published. It can be found on the AHPRA website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications/AHPRA-Publications.aspx>

The report details the second year of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme), as well as extensive data on health practitioner registration and regulation, including notifications.

Registration Renewal

The registration renewal date of 30 November has now expired. 96% of physiotherapists renewed their registration by the deadline date of 30 November.

Any physiotherapist who has not renewed their registration as yet has until 31 December to do so. These applications for renewal will incur a late payment fee, which will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

In the National Scheme, health practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible.

There are significant consequences for individuals who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, physiotherapists who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners (i.e after 31 December 2012). Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise their profession in Australia until a new application is approved. Neither the National Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this.

Physiotherapists who do not renew their registration by 30 November 2012, or within the following one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. These practitioners should note that they are not able to practise their profession until their fast-track registration application has been processed and approved.

Physiotherapists can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Renewal Received Confirmation](#). Individuals whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

Physiotherapists can print a copy of their registration certificate using AHPRA's online services at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Accreditation Function

The Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) was assigned the role of accreditation authority for the physiotherapy profession by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council prior to the commencement of the National Scheme for an initial period of three years.

Following a review including wide-ranging public consultation, the National Board has decided to continue this assignment to the APC for a period of 3 years from 1 July 2013 with an option to renew for a further 2.

In making the assignment, the National Board is conscious of the need to balance the need for flexibility and responsiveness to developments such as the review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme with the need for certainty and continuity for education providers and to enable effective planning and efficient management by the Council. The National Board will build in appropriate flexibility into its future arrangements with the Council and will also establish an agreed program of work and key issues to be addressed during the period of the assignment. The APC will continue to provide the National Board with regular reports (in addition to reports on accredited programs) on its activities and governance structures in line with the Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function.

Documents on the National Board website

From now on, AHPRA will change the way it publishes web documents as part of its commitment to provide websites that are accessible to all users. This is in line with AHPRA's goal to achieve Level A compliance to the [World Wide Web Consortium's \(W3C\) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#). This change in process is an important step in AHPRA complying with the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) as well as supporting the goals of two of our [2012-13 Business Plan](#) initiatives.

Wherever possible AHPRA will now publish documents as HTML pages rather than PDFs. Where this is not appropriate we will publish 'original format documents' alongside PDFs. In most cases this will be the Word document, Excel spreadsheet or Powerpoint presentation used to create the PDF.

This process change will only apply to documents published from now onwards.

Limited Registration for Postgraduate Training

At this time of year, it is important that education providers who offer (non-approved) postgraduate programs of study, are aware that applicants for these courses are required to apply for limited registration for postgraduate training. The National Board's requirements for Limited Registration for Postgraduate Training are described in the registration standard which is available at www.physiotherapy.gov.au/registration-standards.

Conclusion

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.physiotherapy.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.

On behalf of the National Board, I wish you season's greetings and all the best for 2013.

Paul Shinkfield

Chair

18 December 2012