

## Communiqué

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The 48th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 28 February 2014 in Melbourne. This was the National Board's first meeting for 2014.

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.

### Common guidelines and Code of conduct

The Board has published revised and new common codes and guidelines:

- revised Guidelines for advertising regulated health services
- Social media policy
- revised Mandatory reporting guidelines, and
- revised Code of conduct.

These guidelines, policy and code will come into effect on 17 March 2014, and all registered health practitioners will need to meet these new standards.

The Board consulted widely last year on the draft versions of these documents.

Much work has also gone into making sure that the format and language used in the documents meet plain language requirements, to make it easier to access and understand the important information in them.

More information has been published on the AHPRA and National Boards' websites.

### Consultation on revised standards and guidelines

In the first half of 2014, the Board will consult on the following revised codes and guidelines:

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

Later on in 2014, the Board will publish the following revised documents for consultation:

- Limited registration standards and guidelines
- Supervision guidelines

Broad-ranging input is sought on these revised documents and registrants and the community will be updated with progress about the consultation period via this communiqué and in the news section of the Board's website ([www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au/news](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au/news)).

### Audit

AHPRA and the Board have established 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 helps 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](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au).

### **Binational entry level qualifying statements for physiotherapy**

The Physiotherapy Board of Australia and the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand have agreed to work together to establish shared statements that describe the elements of entry-level practice for the physiotherapy profession in the two countries. It is anticipated that these will replace the existing Australian Standards for Physiotherapy and the Physiotherapy Competencies for Physiotherapy Practice in New Zealand.

After a competitive tender process, Arete Pty Ltd has been contracted to undertake this significant project and work has commenced.

An expert reference group, with members from both Australia and New Zealand has been appointed to support the project.

The respective Boards and the joint Steering Committee for the project are keen to engage with the profession and the broader community and will provide extensive opportunities to provide feedback as the project progresses.

It is anticipated that the project will be completed by early 2015.

### **Updating contact details**

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](http://www.physiotherapyboard.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

4 March 2013