

## Communiqué

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The 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 25 July 2014 at the 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 to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

### Queensland – new arrangements for handling notifications from 1 July 2014

From **1 July 2014**, a new law came in to effect in Queensland, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*.

From 1 July, all complaints about Queensland health practitioners will be received by the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) who will either manage the matters or refer them to the relevant National Board to manage.

Complaints that were made to AHPRA or National Boards before 1 July 2014 will generally continue to be managed by AHPRA on behalf of National Boards. However, under the new law the Office of the Health Ombudsman can request that a matter be referred to them to be managed. If this were to happen, AHPRA will inform both the notifier and the practitioner who is the subject of the notification.

For information about the Office of the Health Ombudsman please go to [www.oho.qld.gov.au](http://www.oho.qld.gov.au) or call 133 646 (133 OHO).

### Health Professions Agreement (HPA)

The Board has approved its budget for the 2014/15 financial year. The Board has now approved its 2014/15 Health Profession Agreement with AHPRA. The HPA outlines the services that AHPRA provides to the Board. Under the National Law, the Board and AHPRA work in partnership to implement the National Scheme, each with specific roles, powers and responsibilities set down in the National Law.

This document, including the Board's budget details, will soon be published on the Board's website. The 2013/14 HPA is available for review at [www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au).

### 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 declarations made by a random sample of practitioners. The audit helps to make sure that practitioners are meeting the required standards of practice and give important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Auditing of all professions has started. If you are selected for audit you will be notified in writing and will need to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the registration standards.

Further information will be available soon on the [Board's website](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au).

### 2014 Registrant Survey

Later in 2014, the Board will be conducting a voluntary and anonymous email survey of registered physiotherapists. By conducting this survey, the Board aims to get a better understanding of

physiotherapists' knowledge of their obligations under the National Law, as well as the areas on which it might need to provide more guidance.

Look for the link to the anonymous survey in your electronic mailbox in the coming months.

### **Student presentation**

The Board has approved the publication on its website of a Powerpoint presentation for use by education providers and other interested parties to help explain registration requirements for physiotherapists under the National Law. The presentation is free to download and be used by all interested parties and is suited to those students nearing completion of their studies who are preparing for their careers as registered physiotherapists in Australia.

### **Updating contact details**

To check your contact details, go to the [Your Account](#) link on the AHPRA homepage, and enter your User ID, date of birth and password (please note that your User ID is not your registration number). If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call: 1300 419 495.

### **Follow @AHPRA on Twitter**

AHPRA will be using [Twitter](#) to encourage a greater overall response to National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

### **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 a web enquiry form or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

### **Paul Shinkfield**

Chair

28 July 2014