

Communiqué

The 54th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 August 2014 in conjunction with the NRAS all-boards conference 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.

Consultation paper for the three year review of NRAS

On Friday 30th August, the consultation paper for the scheduled three year review of the National Scheme was published. The consultation paper is considering the National Scheme as a whole including the work of Boards, AHPRA, accrediting entities and the role of governments. The consultation paper can be accessed [here](#).

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 or call 133 646 (133 OHO).

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](#).

Registrant Survey - postponed

We have recently notified you that the Board would 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.

The anonymous survey has been postponed until early 2015 so as not to interfere with the registration renewals campaign, which is about to commence in the week beginning 22 September and will include instructions on how to renew your registration electronically.

Student presentation

The Board has published 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 may be used by all interested parties. It is ideally 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 or 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

1 September 2014