

Communiqué

The 55th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 September 2014 at the AHPRA Adelaide office.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting, and 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

The consultation paper for the scheduled three-year review of the National Scheme was published on Friday 30 August. The consultation paper considers 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](#). The deadline for submissions to the consultation paper is 10 October.

Queensland – new arrangements for handling notifications from 1 July 2014

From **1 July 2014**, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* came into effect in Queensland.

The Office of the Health Ombudsman has been receiving all complaints about Queensland health practitioners since 1 July, and will decide whether to retain the matters or refer them to the National Board to manage.

Complaints made to AHPRA or National Boards before 1 July 2014 will generally continue to be managed by AHPRA on behalf of the 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 happens, 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).

2014/2015 Health Profession Agreement published

The Board and AHPRA have published the [Health Profession Agreement](#) that outlines the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, including the services AHPRA will provide to the Board in 2014/2015.

The guiding principles of the National Law require the National Scheme to operate in a ‘transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair way’, and for registration fees to be reasonable ‘having regard to the efficient and effective operation of the scheme’.

One of the fundamental aspects of the National Scheme is that there is no cross-subsidisation between professions. This means that the regulation of each profession is entirely paid for by that profession’s registration fees.

The 2014/15 Health Profession Agreement is published on the [Board’s website](#).

Registrant Survey - postponed

We recently notified you that the Board would conduct 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, and the areas on which it might need to provide more guidance.

The anonymous survey has been postponed until early 2015 to avoid interfering with the registration renewals campaign that started on 24 September.

Student presentation

The Board has published a presentation for use by education providers and other interested parties to help explain registration requirements for physiotherapists under the National Law. The [Powerpoint presentation](#) is available on the Board's website, and is ideally suited to students nearing completion of their studies who are preparing for their careers as registered physiotherapists in Australia.

Renewing your registration

Online renewal of registration is now open for general or non-practising registered physiotherapists.

About 25,800 physiotherapists who are due to renew their registration with the Board by 30 November can [submit an online application now](#).

Under the National Law, all registered health practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year.

The Board announced last month that it had [reduced the fee](#) for the registration period from 1 December 2014 to 30 November 2015 to \$159.

A series of reminders to renew your registration will be sent to your registered email address by AHPRA on behalf of the Board. The reminders include a link to online renewal.

Updating contact details

To check or update 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 uses [Twitter](#) to encourage greater discussion about 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 registered physiotherapists 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

29 September 2014