

## Communiqué

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The 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 27 March 2015 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) national office in Perth.

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.

### Registrant survey – now closed

We recently conducted a voluntary and anonymous email survey of registered physiotherapists through a link in the registrant newsletter, emailed to each physiotherapist. There was a high response rate which, after analysis, should provide the Board with 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 survey is now closed. Thank you to everyone who completed it.

### Physiotherapy March newsletter

The March 2015 edition of the Board's newsletter was forwarded electronically to all physiotherapists. If you did not receive your newsletter, please ensure that AHPRA holds your current and correct contact details. It is easy to update your contact details online and information on how is at the end of this communiqué.

### Binational physiotherapy practice thresholds

At its March meeting, the new Binational physiotherapy practice thresholds were endorsed by the Board. The project to develop the new thresholds has been ongoing over the past couple of years in close partnership with the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand. When the document is launched, it will mean that both countries will have the same threshold statements for entry level practice into the profession of physiotherapy.

It is proposed that the new practice thresholds will be launched in both Australia and New Zealand in early May. In Australia, it will replace the *Australian Standards for Physiotherapy* (2006) and will eventually be incorporated into education providers' curriculum via the Board's accreditation authority, the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC). The APC will also determine the lead-in times for use within the accreditation system within Australia.

Once launched, the thresholds document will be free to use and will be published on the Board's website.

### Standards compliance audit

All health practitioners registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), are required to comply with a range of registration standards. These standards were developed after wide-ranging consultation and have been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

Last year the Board participated in its second audit of registration standard compliance. In the coming months, AHPRA will again be randomly selecting some physiotherapists to audit their compliance with the Board's registration standards.

An information pack will be sent to those selected for audit. Additional information is available on the [Audit page](#) of the Board's website.

## Security tip – keep your web browser updated

AHPRA and the National Boards are making changes to our websites to ensure your information is kept safe.

From early April 2015, anyone using Internet Explorer version 6 (or an older version) to view the Board's website is likely to experience difficulty accessing web pages and online services.

To avoid an interruption to service, we recommend you [upgrade to the newest version of Internet Explorer immediately](#). It is available for free from Microsoft.

If you are using a new version of Internet Explorer and are still having difficulty accessing our website please contact us to report your experience.

Call **1300 419 495** Monday to Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

## New approach to international criminal history checks

A new procedure for checking international criminal history to provide greater public protection is being implemented by all National Boards and AHPRA.

This new approach requires [certain applicants and practitioners](#) to apply for an international criminal history check from an AHPRA approved supplier and was first announced in November last year. The supplier will provide the international criminal history check report to the applicant and directly to AHPRA.

The new process for checking international criminal history aims to strike a balance between public safety and regulatory burden for practitioners. More information is in the [media release](#) on the AHPRA website.

## 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<sup>1</sup>. The PowerPoint presentation is free to [download from the Board's website](#). It is ideally suited to students nearing completion of their studies and who are preparing for their careers as registered physiotherapists in Australia.

## Updating contact details

To check or update your contact details, go to the online services panel for practitioners on the homepage of the Board's website and click on the relevant link. Enter your user ID, date of birth and password to access your account. 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](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

For more information or help with questions about your registration, please send a web enquiry form or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Paul Shinkfield  
**Chair**

2 April 2015

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<sup>1</sup> The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)