

## Communiqué

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The 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 28 August 2015 at the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) office in Melbourne.

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.

### **AHPRA and the National Boards welcome Ministers' response to National Scheme review report**

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council met on 7 August 2015 at the COAG Health Council meeting to consider the final report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The purpose of the independent review was to identify what is working well in the National Scheme and the opportunities to improve and strengthen the operation of the scheme to regulate health professions to protect the public.

Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally.

More information about the review can be found on the [COAG Health Council](#) website and on [AHPRA's](#) website.

### **Expressions of interest to join the Registration and Notifications Committee**

The Board will refresh the membership of its Registration and Notifications Committee (RNC). The RNC has duties delegated to it by the National Board which include the consideration of notifications (complaints) made about physiotherapists. An Expression of Interest process will be advertised on the Board's website in the coming weeks.

### **Review of the Accreditation standard – Submissions invited**

The Board has asked its Accreditation authority, the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) to conduct a review of the approved Accreditation standard. The Accreditation standard is the list of requirements against which a program of study is assessed in order for it to be approved by the Board as providing a qualification suitable for registration. The list of approved programs of study is published on the Board's [website](#).

A draft revised Accreditation standard is open for public consultation and is published on the APC [website](#).

You are encouraged to provide a submission. All the information about providing a submission is available on the APC website.

### **Quarterly registration data released**

The Board has released its [quarterly registration data](#). The latest report and other statistics are published on our website under *About*.

### **Top tips for using the register**

The [register of practitioners](#) is core to all of our work because it provides up-to-date information about every registered health practitioner. To help the public and employers get the most out of the register, we

have developed [these tips](#). In particular, the tips remind anyone responsible for recruiting health practitioners how to use the register to verify a practitioner's registration status.

### **Are your contact details up to date?**

AHPRA will be sending out the first round of renewal notices next month. It is important that your contact details are up to date.

You can check your details via the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website.

Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

### **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

28 August 2015