

Communiqué

The 71st meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 February 2016 at the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne. This was the first meeting of 2016.

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.

National awareness campaign

You may have seen the beginning of the AHPRA national awareness campaign. **Know your obligations**, the first of three phases, directed at employers of health practitioners, launched at the close of last year. The message has been shared over social media through targeted ads resulting in a doubling of our online community.

There are [resources available](#) to help you understand and meet your obligations, which are designed to complement your recruitment requirements and processes. These materials state exactly what your obligations are and it is important that you are familiar with them.

If you employ registered health practitioners, you have an important obligation to ensure that they hold current registration and that you understand your mandatory notification requirements under the National Law¹.

The next phase of the campaign is targeted at practitioners. Under the headline of **The not-so-small print**, practitioners are encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners. Advertisements will be rolled out later this month across a mix of social media, industry publications and newsletters.

The final phase will be directed at the public to increase awareness of the [national register of practitioners](#).

Health practitioner regulation: Learn how you're protected

A new video and an accompanying infographic explaining the Australia-wide scheme that is in place to protect members of the public was released by AHPRA in December.

Both resources are available on the [What we do](#) page of the AHPRA website or read the [news item](#) on the Board website for more information. The video can also be watched on AHPRA's [YouTube channel](#).

Local data summaries published

The National Boards and AHPRA have published [reports for each state and territory](#) on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). The reports provide a unique insight on local outcomes within a scheme for which the core focus is protection of the public. They are for the 2014/15 year of the scheme.

The summaries provide local data on registration types, notifications (complaints) and mandatory notifications for the regulated health professions, for each state and territory.

Refreshed Registration and Notifications Committee

The Board held an expression of interest (EOI) campaign to refresh the membership of its Registration and Notifications Committee (RNC) at the end of last year. The campaign sparked a good deal of interest and many competitive applications were received.

The RNC is a seven member committee made up of practitioner and community members. It has duties delegated to it by the National Board which include the consideration of notifications (complaints) made about physiotherapists.

The members of the RNC are:

- Fiona McKinnon (Chair)
- Alison Bell
- Maureen Capp
- David Cross
- Peter Kerr
- Libby Soderholm
- Jennifer Azurin

The members are appointed for a two year period.

Physiotherapy Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will publish in late March a report of its work in the regulation of the physiotherapy profession under the National Scheme during 2014/15. The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for the physiotherapy profession in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme.

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?

It is important that your contact details are up to date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. 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 or 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.

Charles Flynn

Presiding member
4 March 2016