

Communiqué

The 73rd meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 April 2016 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) National 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.

April meeting

During its meeting on 29 April 2016, the Board received reports from and progressed matters raised through its committees. It also addressed a number of AHPRA and National Scheme-related matters, including further work to develop its budget for 2016-17.

Physiotherapy Board of Australia profession profile

The Board has published 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.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function under the National Law¹ and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and matters regarding the National Scheme. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in its content.

PowerPoint for students

The path from study to a career in physiotherapy and the requirements for registration are now explained in a PowerPoint, published on the Board's website.

The PowerPoint outlines what the Board does, what registration means and how the profession is regulated under the National Scheme. Information about Board guidance for safe and effective practice and the role of AHPRA is also explained.

It's important that a graduate clearly understands what it means to be registered and what their obligations are when seeking initial registration and throughout their career as a physiotherapist.

The PowerPoint is published on the [Student registration](#) section of the Board's website.

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

Revised standard for recency of practice

The Board has published a [revised registration standard for recency of practice](#) which will come into effect on 1 December 2016 and replace the current standard. This standard will apply to all registered physiotherapists except those with non-practising registration.

The key change to the Board's recency of practice requirements is that a requirement for minimum hours of practice has been introduced. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standards by the time they renew their registration in 2017.

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.

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 health practitioners. Advertisements were published last 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.

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

9 May 2016