

## Communiqué

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The 75th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 June 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.

### June meeting

During its meeting on 24 June 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.

### Responsible advertising

The Board would like to remind all registered physiotherapists that you must comply with the provisions of the National Law on the advertising of regulated health services, relevant consumer protection legislation, and state and territory fair trading Acts and, if applicable, legislation regulating the advertising of therapeutic goods.

Good practice also involves ensuring that any promotion of therapeutic products is ethical.

All practitioners must be familiar with the *Code of conduct* and *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services* (the guidelines). The guidelines provide any person who advertises a regulated health service or business that provides a regulated health service with guidance on the obligations of advertisers under the National Law.

The National Law bans specific types of advertising, including (but not limited to) advertising in a way that:

1. makes misleading claims
2. offers an inducement such as a gift or discount (unless the relevant terms and conditions are also included)
3. uses testimonials, and/or
4. creates unreasonable expectations of beneficial treatment, or encourages the indiscriminate or unnecessary use of a service.

The Board would encourage you to check your website against the banned types of advertising to avoid any inadvertent breaches of the National Law.

### Continuing professional development reminder

A revised continuing professional development (CPD) registration standard took effect on 1 December 2015. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standard by the time they renew their registration, which is due by 30 November 2016.

There were minimal changes to the Board's standard. The number of hours of CPD physiotherapists are required to undertake each year has not changed.

The Board has also published revised guidelines for CPD, FAQs and templates to assist practitioners to plan and record their CPD activities. These can be found on the [Codes and guidelines](#) section of the Board's website.

## 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 is a requirement for minimum hours of practice has been introduced. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standard by the time they renew their registration in 2017.

## Revised standard for professional indemnity insurance arrangements

The Board's revised registration standard for professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements took effect on 1 July 2016. Practitioners must comply with the new standard by the time they renew their registration, which is due by 30 November 2016.

There are very few changes to the new PII arrangements registration standard. More information about the new standard can be found on the [Board's website](#).

## National awareness campaign

The third and final phase of AHPRA's national awareness campaign is underway.

Under the headline of [Safe in the knowledge](#), the phase targets the public to increase awareness of the [national register of health practitioners](#) and encourages them to check it before visiting their practitioner.

The AHPRA website has been updated with additional information on what the public can do if a practitioner can't be found on the register.

As part of the campaign, employers of health practitioners have been urged to understand their obligations while practitioners have also been encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners.

## Top tips for using the register

The [register of practitioners](#) is core to the work of AHPRA and the National Boards because it provides up-to-date information about every registered health practitioner, including physiotherapists. 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 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](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.

## Charles Flynn

Presiding member  
1 July 2016