

## Communiqué

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### December 2017 meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia

The 90th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 15 December 2017 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.

#### Season's greetings

This meeting was the last for 2017 and as the Board reflects on its work over the last, we would like to thank all of those who have helped to make it a successful one.

We would also like to take the opportunity to wish all practitioners, stakeholders and their families and loved ones a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to another productive year working together in 2018.

#### 2018 regulatory planning

As part of its regulatory planning for 2018 the Board reflected on positive feedback it received from the stakeholder event it held in Darwin in September 2017.

The Board intends to continue to engage with the profession on a number of topics important to the regulation of physiotherapists throughout 2018. These will include the ongoing review of the Board's *Code of conduct*.

The Board is committed to communicating with the profession about its regulatory work and is starting to plan its stakeholder engagement for the coming year.

#### Board newsletter – know your obligations

The Board published its [latest newsletter](#) which was sent to practitioners earlier this month.

The Board's role is to protect the public by regulated registered physiotherapists'. The newsletter is one of the ways the Board can share with practitioner's the Board's expectations of them including to complete their required continuing professional development (CPD), staying up to date with the Board's standards, policies and guidelines and to provide safe, effective, evidence-based care to patients.

The Board would also like to remind practitioners about their responsibilities when advertising the services that they provide and directs them to the [Advertising Resources](#) page on the AHPRA website. The advertising resources include guidance about how to comply with advertising requirements under the National Law, information about what you need to know about advertising and a number of [examples](#) of advertising that include advice about what content is not compliant with the advertising requirements of the National Law.

#### Registration renewal reminder

Physiotherapists were due to renew their registration by 30 November 2017, those who didn't can still renew and will need to lodge a late renewal before 31 December 2017. Late renewals will incur a late payment fee.

Practitioners who apply to renew during the late renewal period can still practise even if:

- AHPRA are still processing your application to renew, and/or
- the registration expiry date displayed on the register has passed.

Anyone who hasn't renewed their registration by 31 December 2017 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the national *Register of practitioners* and they will not be able to practise in Australia unless they [apply to re-register](#).

A 'fast-track' application can be made, but the physiotherapist cannot practise until it is processed and the national register is updated, which can take time.

### **Scheduled Medicines Expert Committee appointed**

Late last year the Ministerial Council endorsed the AHMAC Guidance for National Boards: *Applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of endorsements in relation to scheduled medicines under section 14 of the National Law* (the Guidance).

The Guidance is published on the AHPRA website under [Ministerial directives and communiqués](#). It provides information for National Boards about the process for, and content of, an application to the Ministerial Council for approval of endorsement for scheduled medicines for a health profession under section 14 of the National Law.

Consistent with the Guidance, AHPRA has established a Scheduled Medicines Expert Committee (Expert Committee) whose role is to advise National Boards on the use of scheduled medicines generally, and on matters relevant to a National Board's proposal for a new scheduled medicines endorsement or an amendment to an existing scheduled medicines endorsement.

Following a call for applications, AHPRA is pleased to announce the following appointments to the Expert Committee:

- Professor Anne Tonkin, Chair
- Ms Vanessa Brotto, core member
- Dr Susan Hunt, core member
- Professor Lisa Nissen, core member
- Ms Sarah Spagnardi, core member

Information about the Expert Committee, including the terms of reference, is available on the AHPRA [website](#).

### **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 social media**

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



### **Further information**

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**

Chair

19 December 2017