

## Communiqué

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### March 2018 meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia

The 92nd meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board), was held in March in Melbourne on 23 March, a week earlier than usual because of Easter.

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.

#### Perth stakeholder breakfast session

Physiotherapists in Western Australia have recently been sent an email invitation to meet Board members and attend a breakfast information session in Perth on 27 May 2018.

As well as being able to attend in person, the event will include practitioners from several rural and remote locations with who will be joining the event through videoconference.

Practitioners are encouraged to respond promptly to the invitation and are invited to forward any questions they would like answered on the day.

#### March newsletter from the Board

The Board will shortly publish its first newsletter for 2018 on its website. The March newsletter provides more information about important topics such as the road to prescribing for physiotherapists.

All physiotherapists and the Board's other stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on anything included in its newsletters and monthly communiqués.

#### Forthcoming consultation on revised *Code of Conduct* and *Supervision guidelines*

The Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) continues to work on a scheduled review of the Board's shared *Code of conduct* (the Code).

A round of preliminary consultation and then a longer round of public consultation will be conducted this year. The Board encourages all physiotherapists to engage with the process and provide feedback on proposed changes to this important document.

The Code is an overarching framework that outlines the ethical and professional behaviours for practitioners expected by the Board. It is the document against which physiotherapists are measured should a complaint be made about them.

While the Board recognises that physiotherapists might have various codes of conduct at their place of employment or through the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA), it is vital that they understand that it is the Board's *Code of conduct* that is the only regulatory tool that all physiotherapists are obliged to adhere to in order to maintain their registration.

The Board is also finalising a consultation paper which reviews and refines the existing, shared *Supervision guidelines*. Supervision can be required for various reasons – such as when a practitioner is returning to practice after a break (and does not meet the *Recency of practice registration standard*), is making a substantial change to their scope of practice, has conditions imposed on their registration which

require supervision, or they hold limited registration for supervised practice, meaning that they are from overseas and are going through the Australian Physiotherapy Council's overseas assessment process.

### Local insights, National Scheme: State and territory summaries published

Individual annual report summaries for each state and territory, offering insights into how the National Scheme<sup>1</sup> is operating across Australia, have been published.

Based on the AHPRA and National Boards annual report for 2016/17, the summaries are available online. Information includes applications for registration by profession, outcomes of criminal history checks and segmentation of the registrant base by gender, profession and specialty.

Notifications information includes the number of complaints or concerns received by profession, types of complaint, matters involving immediate action, monitoring and compliance, panels and tribunals and statutory offence complaints.

A number of National Board summaries have been published and the rest will be available over coming months.

Copies of reports can be downloaded from the 2016-17 Annual Report [microsite](#).

### Scheduled review of accreditation assignments

National Boards and AHPRA have started a process to consider accreditation arrangements from mid-2019, when the current term of assignment of accreditation functions ends.

The National Law<sup>2</sup> sets out the accreditation functions in the National Scheme. These include developing accreditation standards, accrediting programs of study against approved accreditation standards and assessing overseas qualified practitioners.

Public consultation on the existing accreditation arrangements is expected to start during April 2018 for around four weeks. More information will be published on the AHPRA and National Board websites in coming weeks.

Read the full [news item](#).

### 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

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<sup>1</sup> National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

<sup>2</sup> Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

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

28 March 2018