

## Communiqué

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

The 93rd meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board), was held in April in Perth.

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

The Board held its first stakeholder engagement event for 2018 alongside its April meeting.

The Royal Perth Hospital hosted the event in the Bruce Hunt Lecture Hall and with the tremendous help of the Western Australia Country Health Service, the Board was able to videoconference to 13 rural sites across WA. University of Notre Dame Australia students also joined in via videoconference.

Physiotherapists attending in Perth were able to chat with Board members and enjoy a light breakfast.

Participants were invited to send questions in advance, which the Board Chair, and WA AHPRA team responded to during the session as well as taking questions from the floor.

The Board received many responses from physiotherapists eager to participate in this event and engage with the Board about the standards, codes and guidelines that physiotherapists need to meet when providing care to the public.

Attendees said they found clarification of the Board and AHPRA's role as distinct from the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) valuable and said it improved their knowledge of physiotherapy regulation.

The Board welcomed feedback on the forum and will use it to improve future events.

The next stakeholder event will be held in Hobart in October 2018, coinciding with the APA conference. Tasmanian physiotherapists and all conference goers will be invited to attend.

#### Board newsletter published

The Board published its first newsletter for 2018 on its website. The [April 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.

#### Supervision guidelines under review

The Board has begun a scheduled review of the existing, shared *Supervision guidelines*, in partnership with other National Boards and AHPRA. They are proposing to establish a *Supervised practice framework* to accommodate the multiple uses of supervised practice across the different functions and professions of the National Scheme.

Supervised practice 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 supervised practice, or they hold limited registration for supervised practice, meaning that they are from overseas and are going through the Australian Physiotherapy Council's (APC\_ overseas assessment process.

Public consultation will be conducted in the coming weeks and a news item will be published on the Board's website to let practitioners and stakeholders know when the consultation starts.

### **Draft guideline for informing the Board where you practise**

The Board has published a consultation paper on the draft guideline for informing a National Board about where you practise.

Public consultation has started and will close on **25 May 2018**.

In September 2017, the Queensland Parliament passed the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The Bill contained a set of amendments to the the National Law except Western Australia. Corresponding legislation has also been passed in Western Australia.

These amendments include changes to the information a registered health practitioner is required to provide about their practice arrangements when requested by the National Board (referred to as 'practice information').

The draft guideline has been developed to physiotherapists and other registered health practitioners to provide practice information in a way that meets their obligations under the National Law.

The consultation paper is available under [Current consultations](#), and the Board invites feedback from practitioners, stakeholders and the community.

### **Vexing not vexatious: Report finds more risk in not reporting**

New independent research commissioned by AHPRA takes a first international look at vexatious complaints, finding there is more risk from people not reporting concerns than from making dubious complaints.

It also found that while being on the receiving end of a complaint is tough – the complaint is much more likely to be vexing than vexatious.

The report will be used to inform best practice for reducing, identifying, and managing vexatious complaints and helps to identify opportunities to work with others to help reduce their frequency and adverse consequences.

For further information read the research summary report [Reducing, identifying and managing vexatious complaints](#) on the AHPRA website.

### **Read about progress on the first ever National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy**

The health strategy group charged with developing the National Scheme's first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy has held its first meeting for 2018 and will publish its latest communiqué soon.

AHPRA, the 15 National Boards responsible for regulating the health professions, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations have committed to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy with the vision of: 'Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia's health system is the norm, as defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.'

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, CEO of ABSTARR Consulting, and Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia, are co-Chairs of the health strategy group. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group publish communiqués of its work. These are available on the [Advisory group page](#) of the AHPRA website.

This work is happening in conjunction with the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan for AHPRA.

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group is scheduled for July 2018.

### **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

14 May 2018