

Communiqué

November 2018 meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia

The 99th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board), was held on 23rd November at the AHPRA National office in Melbourne.

The Board did not hold an October meeting because of the proximity of the September meeting which was aligned with the APA conference in Hobart at the beginning of October.

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.

Welcome to new and reappointed Board members

The COAG Health Council has [announced](#) new appointments and reappointments to the Physiotherapy Board of Australia and other National Boards.

Members appointed and/or reappointed by ministers are:

- Kim Gibson, Chair, practitioner member, Western Australia
- Sally Adamson, practitioner member, Northern Territory
- Jenny Blake, community member
- David Cross, practitioner member, New South Wales
- Lyn Green, community member
- Paula Harding, practitioner member, Victoria
- Cherie Hearn, practitioner member, Queensland
- Sheila Lennon, practitioner member, South Australia
- Peter Kerr, community member
- Libby Trickett, practitioner member, ACT, and
- Kate Waterford, community member.

Message from the new Chair

On behalf of all stakeholders involved in the regulation of physiotherapy, I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution and commitment of our four retiring members Charles Flynn, Libby Kosmala, Pippa Tessmann and Ali Bell. Each member has been integral in transitioning health practitioner regulation towards a nationally consistent scheme.

AHPRA and National Boards welcome release of the Accreditation Systems Review final report

AHPRA and National Boards have welcomed the publication of the Independent Accreditation Systems Review final report.

The Independent Accreditation Systems Review's (the Review) [final report](#) makes significant, far reaching recommendations to reform the accreditation system for regulated health professions in Australia. It proposes recommendations which range from relatively uncontentious and which the National Scheme bodies generally support, to those which are significantly more complex and contentious.

Health Ministers commissioned the Review following a [review of the National Scheme](#) as a whole.

For more information read the [statement](#) on the AHPRA website.

September meeting

The Board held its September meeting in the first week of October to coincide with the Australian Physiotherapy Association's (APA) NEXT conference in Hobart.

At the meeting the Board was pleased to receive a verbal report from its accreditation authority, the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) and also hear from its counterpart in New Zealand – the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand.

Stakeholder engagement breakfast in Hobart

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and National Boards have issued further guidance for advertisers to make it clearer that selectively editing reviews is not acceptable.

The Board made this a focus when it held its September Board meeting in Hobart and alongside hosted a stakeholder engagement breakfast for Tasmanian physiotherapists and other interested stakeholders. The breakfast also gave attendees an opportunity to meet Board members.

Attendees received an update from the AHPRA's Tasmania State Manager, Catherine Miedecke, followed by an update from one of the Board's community members and the Board Chair. The presentations were followed by an active question and answer session.

Feedback from the session will inform future events hosted by the Board in other jurisdictions.

New results format for OET English language test; registration standards remain unchanged

AHPRA and the Board have started accepting an updated format of test results for the Occupational English Test (OET).

All National Boards have a registration standard for English language skills, which require applicants for initial registration to demonstrate English language skills to be suitable for registration. The OET is one of the English language skills tests accepted by the Board.

The English language level being tested by OET remains the same. Test takers are not being measured differently, with the only change being the way the OET scores are described. As such, the National Boards' [English language skills registration standards](#) referring to OET have not changed. Rather, updates have been made to internal systems and relevant application forms to accommodate and reflect the new numerical scale. You can [read more](#) in the news item.

Physiotherapy Board support more public information on register

Changes to the national [Register of practitioners](#) will make it easier to access public information about health practitioners across Australia.

The online *Register of practitioners* has accurate, up-to-date information about the registration status of all registered health practitioners in Australia, including physiotherapists. As decisions are made about a practitioner's registration renewal or disciplinary proceedings, the register is updated to inform the public about the current status of individual practitioners and any restrictions placed upon their practice.

The Board has decided to introduce links to public tribunal decisions when serious allegations have been proven, in the interests of transparency and on the recommendation of the [Independent review of the use of chaperones to protect patients in Australia](#).

No information about the notifications received by the Boards and AHPRA will be published. The change is simply helping to make already publicly available information easier to find.

Further information is available on the [Board's 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 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.

Kim Gibson

Chair

6 December 2018