

Communiqué

August 2016 meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia

The 77th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 August 2016 at the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting 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.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme 2016 combined meeting

The National Board meeting was held on 26 August to coincide with the annual National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting where entities within the scheme got together to discuss the focus for the next 12 months.

During the meeting, the Board received reports from and progressed matters raised through its committees. It also addressed a number of AHPRA and National Scheme-related matters. The Board also took the opportunity to meet with representatives from its accreditation authority, the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) and the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand.

New approved programs of study

The Board considered reports from the (APC) regarding their accreditation of four new programs of study at two universities. The Board approved the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as a physiotherapist from 31 December 2016, adding to the list of approved programs of study.

The new programs of study are:

- the Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) programs of study at the Australian Catholic University, North Sydney and Brisbane campuses, and
- the Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) programs of study at Charles Sturt University, Albury-Wodonga, Orange and Port Macquarie campuses.

Approved programs of study are published on a searchable database on the [Board's website](#). In accordance with the National Law, only once a program of study is published on the Board's website does it become an *approved* program of study for the purposes of registration.

The inclusion of these four new programs of study (from 31 December 2016) will bring the total number of approved programs of study for the physiotherapy profession to 41.

Further information about the accreditation process can be found at the [APC website](#).

Australian Physiotherapy Council CEO

The Board expressed its thanks to outgoing APC Chief Executive Officer Narelle Mills, who is soon to take on the role of CEO at the Australian Dental Council. The Board has enjoyed a very good working relationship with the APC under Narelle's leadership and happily noted Narelle is not being lost to the National Scheme in her new role. The Board looks forward to working with the new APC CEO when appointed.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) session

Physiotherapy Board of Australia

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting had a big focus on the National Scheme's role in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health outcomes. The plenary speaker, Gregory Philips, kicked things off with an inspiring talk on the work of curriculum quality and hospital safety in providing Indigenous health outcomes.

There were then concurrent workshops, representing the first consultation about what a RAP for the National Scheme could look like and the audience did not fail to provide robust conversation about the aspirations of a RAP for the National Scheme.

We were pleased to have the RAP endorsement body, Reconciliation Australia's, CEO [Justin Mohamed](#) in the audience. His lesson for organisations building RAPS was to 'focus on actions, not on the paper'.

National Boards and AHPRA host research summit

The 2016 Research Summit hosted by the 14 National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) was attended by more than 220 delegates who gathered together to talk about the next frontier for developing our partnership's evidence-base to improve the way we regulate.

The theme of the summit was '*patient safety through risk-based regulation*', and presenters discussed a range of topics. At the heart of the discussion was how to contribute to safer care for patients and health consumers. Also discussed was how data collection and evaluation can help find new and innovative ways to improve regulatory processes for health practitioners and the public.

The inaugural summit provided an opportunity for the exchange of expertise and ideas between regulatory staff, experts in safety and quality in healthcare, health practitioners and leading health and medical researchers.

Read more in the [media release](#) about the summit which was held on 25 August.

Top tips for using the Register of practitioners

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 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.

Charles Flynn

Presiding member
1 September 2016