

Communiqué

The 64th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 31 July 2015 at the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) 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.

Initial considerations for physiotherapy prescribing

The Board considered a submission from the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) regarding physiotherapist prescribing in Australia. It acknowledges the work done by the APA in developing an initial case for prescribing and looks forward to continuing to explore this important potential development with the APA and other key stakeholders.

The Board must carefully consider the evidence and issues raised by any proposal for regulatory change before a submission can go before Health Ministers to approve the Board's endorsement of a physiotherapist's registration to prescribe scheduled medicines. This process may take a significant period of time and, among other things, will require the Board to consult widely with a range of key stakeholders, including physiotherapists and the general public.

New appointments to the Physiotherapy Board of Australia

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) has [announced](#) new appointments and reappointments of the Chair, practitioner members and community members to the Physiotherapy Board and other National Boards.

The Board thanks and congratulates its retiring members on their diligence, enthusiasm and commitment to the regulation of the physiotherapy profession over a significant number of years, including before the start of the National Scheme in 2010.

The retiring members are:

- Ms Kathy Grudzinskas (Qld)
- Ms Karen Murphy (ACT)
- Mr Tim Benson (WA), and
- Ms Anne Deans (NSW).

The Board congratulates the following new members appointed from 31 August:

- Mr David Cross (NSW)
- Ms Jenny Blake (Vic.)
- Ms Libby Trickett (ACT), and
- Ms Cherie Hearn (Qld).

Expressions of interest to join the Registration and Notifications Committee

The Board has decided to refresh the membership of its National Registration and Notifications Committee (RNC). The RNC has duties delegated to it by the Board to consider notifications (complaints) made about physiotherapists. An Expression of Interest process will be advertised on the Board's website in the coming weeks.

Medicines Australia

Medicines Australia has updated its *Code of conduct*. From 1 October 2015, member pharmaceutical companies will be required to publicly report payments by companies to healthcare professionals for the provisions of services and where support is provided for education.

You can read more about these changes on the Medicines Australia [website](#).

Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released its [quarterly registration data](#). The latest report and other statistics are published on our website under [About](#).

Top tips for using the register

The [register of practitioners](#) is core to all of our work because it provides up-to-date information about every registered health practitioner. 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.

Updating contact details

To check or update your contact details, go to the online services panel for practitioners on the homepage of the Board's website and click on the relevant link. Enter your user ID, date of birth and password to access your account. Please note that your user ID is not your registration number. If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call 1300 419 495.

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.

Paul Shinkfield

Chair

4 August 2015