

Communiqué

The 58th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 19 December 2014 at the AHPRA national office 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.

Queensland – new arrangements for handling notifications from 1 July 2014

From **1 July 2014**, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* came into effect in Queensland.

The Office of the Health Ombudsman has been receiving all complaints about Queensland health practitioners since 1 July, and will decide whether to retain the matters or refer them to the National Board to manage.

Complaints made to AHPRA or National Boards before 1 July 2014 will generally continue to be managed by AHPRA on behalf of the National Boards. However, under the new law the Office of the Health Ombudsman can request that a matter be referred to them to be managed. If this happens, AHPRA will inform both the notifier and the practitioner who is the subject of the notification.

For information about the Office of the Health Ombudsman please go to www.oho.qld.gov.au or call 133 646 (133 OHO).

Annual report

This year for the first time, AHPRA and the Physiotherapy Board of Australia have also published a summary on the regulation of the physiotherapy profession.

Also for the first time, state and territory summaries have also been published, providing an overview for all professions.

These reports are published on the AHPRA website under [Publications](#) and are accessible via the Board's website.

Registrant survey - postponed

We recently notified you that the Board would conduct a voluntary and anonymous email survey of registered physiotherapists. By conducting this survey, the Board aims to get a better understanding of physiotherapists' knowledge of their obligations under the National Law, and the areas on which it might need to provide more guidance.

The anonymous survey has been postponed until February 2015 to avoid interfering with the registration renewals campaign that started on 24 September. The survey is not a test. It is voluntary and anonymous.

Look for the link to the survey in your electronic mailbox in February.

Registration renewals

The deadline for physiotherapists to renew their registration passed on 30 November 2014. Physiotherapists who forgot to renew their registration by this date are able to submit a [Fast Track application](#) form.

The registration renewal date for physiotherapists with general or non-practising registration is 30 November. You can check your registration details and expiry date on the [national registers of practitioners](#).

Make sure your contact details provided to AHPRA, including email, are current as you will be sent reminders when your registration is due. Look for these reminders from AHPRA as confirmation that online renewal is open.

See [fees](#) for the cost of annual renewal, including the late payment fee for renewal applications received during December.

If you did not renew your registration by 31 December (end of the one month late period), your registration will have lapsed in accordance with the National Law and your name will have been removed from the national register.

If you wish to keep practising and did not renew registration by 31 December, you must submit a fast track application for registration. Fast track application forms are available on the Board website or by phoning the Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 during January.

If submitting a fast track application, you cannot practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

Student presentation

The Board has published a [presentation](#) for use by education providers and other interested parties to help explain registration requirements for physiotherapists under the National Law. [The Powerpoint presentation is free to download from the Board's website](#), and is ideally suited to students nearing completion of their studies who are preparing for their careers as registered physiotherapists in Australia.

Physiotherapy November newsletter

The November 2014 edition of the Physiotherapy registrant newsletter has been forwarded electronically to all physiotherapists. If you have not received your newsletter, please ensure that AHPRA holds your current and correct contact details. You can update your contact details by following the steps outlined in the next paragraph.

Updating contact details

To check or update your contact details, go to the [Your Account](#) link on the AHPRA homepage, and enter your User ID, date of birth and password. 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 detail or with questions about your registration, please send a web enquiry form or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

On behalf of the members of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia, I wish you Season's Greetings and all the best for 2015.

Paul Shinkfield

Chair

5 January 2015