



Communiqué

Meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

September 2014

The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board meets face to face each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board.

OTBA upcoming webinars

On 21 July 2014, I presented a webinar entitled 'Staying up to standard'. This webinar which was attended by more than 900 indicated that this is a good medium by which the Board can engage with you further on topics of concern for the profession. The webinar also indicated that there are a number of areas where the Board can engage more widely with you on – particular in relation to continuing professional development and recency of practice.

The Board intends to hold a webinar in the coming months addressing recency of practice concerns. So if you are interested in participating in future events, please check in regularly to the Board's website for updates.

National Scheme – Combined meeting

The National Board meeting was held to coincide with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting during 29-30 August at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The combined meeting encouraged learning through sharing ideas, innovation and networking. The goal is to help us to better understand and respond to our wider regulatory and reform environment.

The combined meeting was attended by members of all of the National Boards, the National Board's Registration and Notification Committees (RNCs), NSW Councils representatives, the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA staff and other partners including representatives of the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme – 3 year review

Health Ministers have initiated a scheduled review on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The independent consultation paper for the three year review of the National Scheme has been published and is considering the National Scheme as a whole including the work of National Boards, AHPRA, accrediting entities and the role of governments.

The consultation paper can be accessed [here](#) and is open until 10 October. The review team expects to make its recommendations early in 2015, which will then be subject to final decisions by all health ministers.

The National Board will be actively participating in the consultation and review process, while continuing our existing work to improve our performance across all aspects of the work of AHPRA and the National Board.

Fee reduction

The Board announced on 27 August 2014 that the national registration fee for occupational therapists would be reduced to \$160, which is \$70 less than in the previous year. The fee for occupational therapists whose principal place of practice is NSW has also been reduced to \$160.

The Board's involvement in the National Scheme over the last two financial years has enabled it to consider more reliable data to better understand the costs of national regulation. The board remains committed to continuing to review the quantum of registration fees for the profession.

Frequently asked questions

During the 'Staying up to standard' webinar on 21 July 2014 there was an overwhelming response from you asking questions about the audit process and the Board's registration standards. While a number of questions were answered during the webinar, there were a number left unanswered. These questions indicated that there was a need for the National Board to update its FAQs to highlight key information that is contained within its registration standard. The National Board is mindful of the need to communicate with you, your obligations and responsibilities when seek and gain registration.

The National Board has now compiled answers to these questions and will be updating its [FAQ](#) webpage over the coming weeks. The National Board hopes that you find this information informative.

Updating contact details

Occupational therapists who are due to renew their general or non-practising registration with the National Board by 30 November 2014 can submit an online application now.

A series of reminders to renew are being sent to practitioners with a registered email address by AHPRA on behalf of the National Board. The reminders include a link to the [online renewal](#).

It is important that you keep your registration details up to date so that you receive important reminders. Your email address will be used by AHPRA to send you important information including renewal notices. To check 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.

Conclusion

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

For more detail or with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Chair



Dr Mary Russell
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia