

## Communiqué

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6 June 2019

### May 2019 meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

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 functions within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

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

The Board met on 28 May 2019 at the AHPRA Office in Melbourne.

#### **Collaboration Agreement with Indigenous Allied Health Australia**

The Board invited representatives of Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) to attend part of the Board meeting.

IAHA and the Board announced a new collaborative partnership which focuses on improving the quality, accessibility, cultural safety and responsiveness of occupational therapists to meet the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples working as and studying to become occupational therapists is also a key priority.

The partnership sets out opportunities for IAHA and the Board to collaborate and share experience and resources to enable positive transformation of occupational therapy practice.

This includes implementation of the Board's [Australian occupational therapy competency standards](#) (the competency standards) which provides guidance on the professional behaviours all occupational therapists must demonstrate to practise safely and ethically.

The competency standards acknowledge the need for occupational therapists to enhance their cultural responsiveness and capabilities for practice with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

#### **Board Breakfast Forum at the Occupational Therapy Australia's 28th National Conference and Exhibition in July 2019**

The Board will be hosting a Breakfast Forum on Wednesday 10 July 2019 (7.00am – 8.30am AEST) at the Occupational Therapy Australia's 28th National Conference and Exhibition in Sydney.

The Board has invited registered occupational therapists to attend the Board's Breakfast Forum. This will be an opportunity to provide key updates on the Board's regulatory activities and answer any queries on these updates.

#### **National Scheme update**

##### **Company fined \$30,600 for unlawful advertising**

Practitioners are reminded to be truthful in advertising their services after a Sydney company was convicted of 10 charges and fined \$30,600 for unlawful advertising.

The Running Clinic (Australia) Pty Ltd (formerly trading as the Heel Clinic), was convicted and fined for advertising offences under the National Law. It was fined \$30,600 and ordered to pay Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) costs of \$8,000.

AHPRA filed 10 charges against the company. It alleged that advertising claims on The Running Clinic's websites and Facebook account contained false, misleading and deceptive claims about podiatry services that were likely to create an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment.

AHPRA first raised the unlawful advertising with the company in 2015 and, while minor changes were made, it failed to significantly rectify the issues.

AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher welcomed the court outcome. Consumers have a right to expect that all registered health practitioners are truthful when advertising their services. This court outcome sends a clear message to anyone advertising a regulated health service that AHPRA will act if they break the law.

Information about your advertising obligations is available on [the Board's](#) website.

### Are your contact details up-to-date?

It is important that 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.



### Keeping in touch with the Board

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and its expectations of practitioners on its website at [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au). Practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policy and guidelines affecting their profession.

### Julie Brayshaw

Chair  
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia  
6 June 2019