



Communiqué: Physiotherapy Board of Australia

Eighth meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia 28 May 2010

The Board is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008. At its eighth meeting, held in Melbourne, the Board made decisions about a range of matters to support the smooth transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

State and Territory Boards

As reported previously, the National Board is committed to retaining the valuable expertise of existing State and Territory Board members in the national registration scheme. It has invited the Chair and members of existing Boards to express interest in participating on panels and working groups that the National Board may establish under the National Law. The Board is pleased to have received many expressions of interest and encourages any interested members who have not done so to forward an expression of interest and current CV to the Board's Executive Officer, Jill Humphreys, at jill.humphreys@ahpra.gov.au.

The Chair of the National Board, Mr Glenn Ruscoe, is in the process of meeting each State and Territory Board, to meet members and work with them to establish an ongoing and effective relationship between the National and State and Territory Boards that will be established from 1 July 2010.

Letter to registered physiotherapists

The Physiotherapy Board of Australia has written to every registered physiotherapist, to support the transition of all registrants into the national scheme. The letter explains each practitioner's registration type from 1 July 2010 and explains what physiotherapists will have to do to ensure a safe transition to the national scheme. The letter details the information that will appear on the online national Register of Physiotherapists. Some registrants who may be registered in more than one jurisdiction may only be receiving their letters now. If a registered physiotherapist has not received a letter by 8 June 2010, they should contact AHPRA on 1300 088 590 as soon as possible.

It is important that all registrants check the registration type allocated to them in the letter and provide feedback to AHPRA if there are any errors. If registrants do not notify AHPRA of any necessary changes to information contained in the letter before 1 July 2010, they will be required to register afresh under the national law and meet the new national registration standards.

The Board is also urging all physiotherapists to make sure the contact details held by their current State or Territory Board are accurate and up to date before 30 June 2010 to ensure only accurate information is published on the national register of physiotherapists.

Registration Fees

The Board has set provisional national registration fees for 2010-2011. The final fees will be announced in June, when the Board completes assessments of the assets and liabilities of existing State and Territory Boards.

National Call Centre

AHPRA has established a call centre (1300 088 590) to ensure registrants have access to information about the national scheme and the implications for individual practitioners of new registration standards, the Board's Codes and Guidelines and the National Law.

Frequently Asked Questions and other detailed information about the national scheme are published on the Board's website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au

Operational readiness

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is working hard to ensure the systems and processes necessary to support national registration are in place on 1 July 2010. New offices have now been established in each State and Territory and staff training is now underway.

Final codes and guidelines

The Board thanks the individuals and organisations that provided thoughtful feedback on the draft codes and guidelines circulated for consultation in recent months. Comments provided have shaped the final Codes and Guidelines.

Final Codes and Guidelines will be published shortly on the Board's website:

- A code of conduct for the physiotherapy profession
- Guidelines on mandatory reporting
- Guidelines on Advertising
- Guidelines on CPD
- Guidelines for physiotherapists in a supervisory role
- Guidelines on the use of medicines.

Limited Registration Guideline and Standard

A further consultation paper on Guidelines and Standards for Limited Registration has been released for consultation. Submissions are due by the close of business on 9 June, 2010. The paper is available on the website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au.

Update on registration standards

As reported previously, the Ministerial Council has deferred its decision on the approval of specialist status for physiotherapists until criteria against which to measure the proposals are developed.

The Board has written to Ministers seeking advice about the development of criteria and will update the profession through its website as further information becomes available. The Board continues to publish regular updates to support the transition to national registration, published on the website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au