

Communiqué

The 47th meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 20 December 2013 in Melbourne.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting, as well as 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.

2012/13 Annual report

AHPRA and the National Boards have published the 2012/13 annual report. The 2013 annual report details the work of the National Boards over the 12 months to 30 June 2013. It contains a wealth of data about all the professions regulated through the National Scheme, as well as specifically about the physiotherapy profession. It provides useful insights into the work of the Board and AHPRA.

The 2012/13 Annual Report is available on the AHPRA website under 'Legislation and Publications'.

Who needs to be registered?

The National Board has published a statement clarifying who needs to be registered. It is available at <http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx>

This statement provides advice to help practitioners decide whether or not they should be registered and provides a definition of 'practice'.

Common guidelines and Code of conduct

The Board will be publishing revised and new common codes and guidelines in February 2014.

- revised *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services*
- *Social media policy*
- revised *Mandatory reporting guidelines*, and
- revised *Code of conduct*.

These guidelines, policy and code will come into effect in March 2014, and all registered health practitioners will need to meet these new standards.

The Board consulted widely this year on the draft versions of these documents.

Much work has also gone into making sure that the format and language used in the documents meet plain language requirements, to make it easier to access and understand the important information in them.

More information will be published on the AHPRA and National Boards' websites in February.

Audit

AHPRA and the Board are developing a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with the mandatory registration standards.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration; they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that the Board and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking these declarations made by a random sample of practitioners. The audit helps to make sure that practitioners are meeting the required standards of practice and provide important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Auditing of all professions has commenced. If you are selected for audit you will be notified in writing and requested to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the standard.

Further information will be available soon on the Board's website – www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au.

Updating contact details

To check your contact details, go to the Your Account link, use your unique contact number (user ID) and follow the prompts. Your user ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your user ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'user ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

Conclusion

We publish a range of information about registration and our expectations of you as a physiotherapist on our website at www.physiotherapyboard.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.

Paul Shinkfield

Chair

23 December 2013