

Communiqué

The 68th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 October 2015 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) national office in Melbourne.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting as well as other points of interest. We publish it on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Efficiencies in committee structure

The Board reviewed its committee structure in line with the guiding principles of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme to provide efficient and effective regulation of the profession. The Board would like to thank the previous non-Board members of the Policy, Standards and Guideline Advisory Committee and the Continuing Professional Development Accreditation Committee for their contribution to the regulation of optometrists. A Policy and Education Committee has been established to continue the important work of the two committees.

Have you renewed your registration yet?

Registration renewal for optometrists is due on 30 November 2015.

If you haven't already renewed your registration, the quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is online.

Applications received in December will incur a late fee, which reflects the cost of managing late renewals.

Under the National Law¹ practitioners who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of Optometrists. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

If you have provided an email address to the Board or AHPRA you will have been sent email reminders to renew. Paper reminders have also been sent to practitioners who have not yet renewed.

Revised registration standards published

The Board have published the revised recency of practice registration standard. The revised standards are being published in advance of the implementation date to assist practitioners planning their return to practice. The revised standards come into effect on 1 December and will replace the standard that is currently in place. Further information including FAQs is available [here](#).

Health professions agreement

The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) have published the health profession agreement (HPA) for 2015/16.

The HPA sets out the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide in supporting the Board to carry out its functions. The 2015/16 Optometry Board of Australia and AHPRA Health Profession Agreement is available on the [Health profession agreements](#) page of the Board's website.

¹ Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board and AHPRA work together to implement the National Scheme regulating registered health practitioners in Australia, in the public interest.

Further information

We publish a range of information about registration and our expectations of you as an optometrist on our website at www.optometryboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

Ian Bluntish

Chair
Optometry Board of Australia

19 November 2015