



Communiqué

31 March 2011

The seventeenth meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 March 2011 at the National Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) offices in Melbourne.

This communiqué outlines the issues discussed and decisions made by the Board.

Registration renewal

Optometrists whose principal place of practice is WA or ACT will be due to renew their registration by 30 June 2011. This will be the first time these practitioners have renewed in the national scheme.

Practitioners who intend to continue to practise and be registered will be due to renew their registration for five months until 30 November 2011, to bring them in line with the new national registration renewal date for the profession of 30 November 2011. The fee paid by these practitioners will be varied pro-rata.

All optometrists in Australia will then be due to renew their registration by 30 November 2011 each year.

AHPRA will be contacting registrants by phone and email (when this contact address has been provided) to remind them of the need to renew.

To ensure that your ability to work is not interrupted and to help make sure future renewal processes go smoothly, please make sure that AHPRA has your correct mailing address, email address and mobile phone number. This will mean AHPRA can quickly, efficiently and directly send practitioners important registration information and the National Board can send information about important issues for the optometry profession.

If you have your AHPRA user ID and pass code go online at www.ahpra.gov.au and click online services then follow the prompts to update your contact details.

If you do not yet have your user ID, complete an online enquiry form (www.ahpra.gov.au/about-ahpra/contact-us/make-an-enquiry) and select 'User ID' as the enquiry type.

You should also check your details on the [public register](#) or through online services to make sure AHPRA's renewal reminder letters find you.

CPD

The Board has developed a CPD specific section on its website. This section lists all the Board's standards and guidelines and other information relating to CPD in one place.

The Board has made some additions to the CPD FAQs. These address questions about CPR training for rural and regional optometrists, information on applying for exemptions for CPD requirements, and information for providers of CPR activities.

The Board will continue to amend these FAQs as questions arise.

Optometrists are encouraged to review the information on an ongoing basis so that they can better understand their obligations under the national registration scheme.

Public register

AHPRA has made some improvements to the appearance of the public register so information about practitioners is clear and accessible. Endorsements on registration are now published on the initial summary page of the register, with more information available by clicking the 'view details' link.

The public register is published at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx>

You should ensure you have one of the [recommended browsers](#) installed on your computer to best view the register.

Conclusion

The Board is committed to providing more guidance and information to optometrists to ensure they understand the requirements of the national registration and accreditation scheme and the National Law.

The Board is working closely with AHPRA to ensure the responsiveness and quality of the delivery of this scheme.

It is important that all optometrists make themselves aware of their individual obligations. The Board recommends that you review the website on a regular basis at www.optometryboard.gov.au.

A lot of information about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners is published on the Board website at www.optometryboard.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 .

Colin Waldron

Chair

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