



Communiqué

The nineteenth meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 May 2011 at the National Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory 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 are due to renew their registration by 30 June 2011. This will be the first time these practitioners have renewed in the national scheme, and for this year only this group will need to register again by 30 November. The fee paid by these practitioners will be varied pro-rata.

AHPRA will be contacting registrants by mail and email (when this contact address has been provided) to remind them of the need to renew. Affected optometrists who have not received any correspondence from AHPRA by now should contact AHPRA immediately on 1300 419 495.

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

Contact details

Thank you to all of you have responded and checked your contact details with AHPRA. The increase in email addresses listed for optometrists will mean AHPRA can quickly, efficiently and directly send you important registration information and the National Board can send information about important issues relating to your registration and the profession.

Checking your details is easy. If you have your AHPRA user ID and pass code go online at www.ahpra.gov.au and click online services located in the top right hand corner, and 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. These will be then sent to you and you can then access the online services.

Health Workforce Australia's draft National Health Workforce Innovation and Reform Strategic Framework for Action

The Board considered and provided feedback to the Health Workforce Australia's (HWA) draft National Health Workforce Innovation and Reform Strategic Framework for Action (the draft Framework). The Board encourages all of its key stakeholders to monitor HWA's [website](#) and become engaged with the further progress of its development.



Continuing Professional Development

The Board is committed to providing a range of information to assist optometrists in meeting the requirements of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) registration standard.

The Board has published additional [FAQs](#) on its website to guide optometrists. These address the following common questions:

- 1) Participation in optometric teaching
- 2) Undertaking post-graduate training in a health-related discipline
- 3) Exemption applications
- 4) Attending overseas conferences

The Board has also published two templates that optometrists may choose to use to assist you in meeting the record keeping requirements of the [CPD registration standard](#). All optometrists need to familiarise themselves with and adhere to these requirements.

Each year when you renew your registration you are required to make a legal declaration that you have met the CPD requirements. This includes the record keeping requirements.

The Board is working with AHPRA on the implementation of the audit process that will assess compliance with the continuing professional development registration standard and other registration standards. Ongoing updates on this process will be published on the Board's website.

Nursing and Allied Health Rural Locum Scheme (NAHRLS)

The Board would like to bring to the attention of those optometrists working in rural and regional areas the Nursing and Allied Health Rural Locum Scheme (NAHRLS). The Department of Health and Ageing has established NAHRLS to support nurses, midwives and eligible allied health professionals in rural and regional Australia to get away to do the professional development training they need to continue their vital work. Optometrists are able to access this scheme. More information can be found at www.nahrls.com.au.

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.

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
6 June 2011