

Communiqué

The 67th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 September 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.

Welcome to incoming Board members

The Board welcomed four new members to their first meeting, Mr Anthony Evans, community member; Associate Professor Daryl Guest, Tasmania practitioner member; Associate Professor Rosemary Knight, community member; and Dr Ann Webber, Queensland practitioner member, and looks forward to working with these members in the future.

Consultation on guidelines

The Board has released a public consultation paper on the review of:

- Continuing professional development for endorsed and non-endorsed optometrists, and
- Prescription of optical appliances.

We encourage all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to have input. The public consultation paper and response template can be accessed from the [Current consultations](#) page on the Board's website. Consultation will close 20 November 2015.

Online renewal of registration is now open

Online renewal of registration is now open for optometrists registered in Australia. Optometrists can renew their general or non-practising registration on the Board's [website](#) by 30 November.

A series of reminders with a link to online renewal will be sent to practitioners by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on behalf of the Board. Optometrists must ensure that AHPRA has their current contact information so they don't miss email and letter reminders to renew.

In early September the Board announced a [reduction in the registration fee](#) for the registration period from 1 December 2015 to 30 November 2016.

More information including the [fee schedule](#) is available on the Board's website:

- [Registration standards](#)
- [Registration renewal](#)
- [Renewal FAQ](#)

For more detail or questions about your registration or renewal please send an online enquiry form or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Ministerial approval of revised registration standards

The Board noted that Ministers had approved the revised registration standards for recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements. The revised standards will be published on the Board's website in the near future with additional information regarding their implementation to follow in due course. The Board noted that the revised registration standards will not be applied retrospectively.

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

27 October 2015