



Media release

4 July 2011

Board announces 2012 registration fees

The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) has set its 2012 registration fees and limited fee increases within a CPI rate of 3.3%.

The National Scheme receives no ongoing funding from government (except for one function of the scheme in NSW in which there is a co-regulatory arrangement). As the National Scheme is funded entirely by registration fees, these need to be set at a level that enables National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to meet their responsibilities under the National Law.

Board Chair Mr Colin Waldron said that fees are set to ensure the Board can continue to provide robust and safe regulation of optometry in Australia so as to protect the public.

“The Board’s role is to protect the public through ensuring that the 4,400 optometrists in Australia are adequately qualified and experienced, and that registration and notification processes meet the needs of the public and the profession”, said Mr Waldron.

In setting its budget for the 2011/12 financial year, the Board has reviewed all registration fees in consultation with its Finance and Risk Committee and AHPRA. The Board has limited the fee increase to CPI, so the **annual general registration renewal fee** will be \$408 from the 30 November 2011 renewal period.

“The Board takes its responsibilities of public protection and regulation very seriously. The 2012 registration fee schedule will allow the Board to continue its work as regulator and to provide guidance to the optometry profession”, said Mr Waldron.

In consultation with the other nine Boards under the National Scheme, the Optometry Board of Australia has reinstated a **late registration renewal fee** from 2011-12 (this had been suspended for the first year of the National Scheme). The late fee will apply to practitioners who apply to renew during the one month ‘late period’ built into the National Law and will be charged at 25% of the renewal fee, recognising the additional costs to AHPRA of managing late renewals. It will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee, meaning late registrants will pay \$511 (\$492 in New South Wales).

The Board also approved a **Fast Track application fee**. The fast track application was introduced this year to assist practitioners whose registration has lapsed but who wish to remain in practice. This fast-track process is open for one month after the end of the late period. The fast track fee will be 50% of the normal application fee for registration and will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee, bringing the total fee to \$511.

In addition to the work of the Board, fees are also used to support the continuing work associated with introducing the National Scheme and providing new services that help Boards to protect the public and guide the professions. For example, in 2012, AHPRA will be working with National Boards to pilot and introduce audits of practitioner compliance with National Board registration standards.

The 2012 fee schedule is published on the Board's [website](#).

For more information

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