



Communiqué

The 42nd meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 28 June 2013 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Brisbane office.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting as well as other points of interest.

We publish this communiqué on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Practitioner audit

The National Boards and AHPRA are developing a nationally-consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with mandatory registration standards.

A random selection of optometrists was selected to take part in an audit pilot when they applied to renew registration for the 2012/13 period. The report for this pilot will be available on the Board's website shortly.

The findings from the overall pilot program run by AHPRA (that also included the chiropractic and pharmacy professions) will be used to develop the framework for auditing all practitioners on an ongoing basis. More information about this will be made available in the coming months.

Notifications processes and performance

In June, AHPRA published new guides for health practitioners and the community about how notifications are managed in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The guide for practitioner and a series of fact sheets aim to explain to practitioners what happens when AHPRA receives a notification on behalf of a National Board. The information complements the direct correspondence that individuals receive if a notification is made about them. The practitioners' guide clearly explains what happens after a concern has been raised about a health practitioner, who decides what happens, how we work with health complaints entities and what practitioners can expect from our processes.

AHPRA has also developed a guide for the community about making a complaint (or notification) about a health practitioner. Both guides are published online on the AHPRA and National Boards websites in a wholly revised section on complaints and notifications. The Board is kept up to date on actions to be implemented to measure and improve notifications performance, including the consistency of processes.

Further details are available at [New guides on complaints in the National Scheme](#).

Centenary of optometry registration in Tasmania

Planning is underway for a Centenary of Optometry Registration dinner which will be held in Hobart on 23 August 2013. It is being planned in cooperation with the Tasmanian State Division of the Optometrists Association Australia in conjunction with the OAA Annual 'Tasmanian Lifestyle Congress IX'. Tasmania was the first state to register optometrists in Australia and as such was a leader in health reform as it is today.

Scheduled medicines guidelines

The Board is defending legal action commenced in the Queensland Supreme Court by the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists in relation to the *Optometry guidelines for use of scheduled medicines*.

The Board is committed to ensuring its regulatory policy both provides for the protection of the public and facilitates access to services in the public interest as per the objectives of the National Scheme.

More 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.

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

Colin Waldron

Chair, Optometry Board of Australia

18 July 2013