



Communiqué

Medical Board of Australia meeting: 17 October 2012

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Renewal of medical registration

Medical registration expired on 30 September 2012 for medical practitioners holding general and/or specialist registration or non-practising registration. Under the National Law, practitioners who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of medical practitioners. Renewals received within one month of their registration expiry date will incur an additional late fee, which reflects the cost of managing late renewals.

At the time of writing this Communiqué, more than 97% of medical practitioners had applied for registration. More than 90% of registrants who are eligible to renew online have done so.

Medical practitioners who do not renew within one month of the expiry of their registration must apply for registration if they wish to continue to practise. They are not able to practise until the application for registration has been approved.

Annual Report

AHPRA and the National Boards submitted the 2012 Annual Report to Ministers by 30 September as required by the National Law. The report, expected to be publicly released on 1 November, details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the second year of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The release will be supported by the publication of a special edition of the AHPRA Report. The 2012 Annual Report and AHPRA Report will both be published online.

Review of standards, guidelines and codes

The Medical Board of Australia and the other National Boards that have been in the National Scheme since 2010 have begun preparations for reviewing the registration standards, guidelines and codes that were developed before the scheme commenced.

The National Boards that joined the National Scheme in 2012 will also be participating in the public consultations on common registration standards, codes and guidelines.

Practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders will be able to provide feedback during the public consultation phases of the reviews. Where registration standards, guidelines and codes are common to all, or most, of the National Boards, the consultation phase will be coordinated across National Boards to make providing feedback easier.

Consultation is expected to occur over several stages, starting in 2013. The consultations are being staged (rather than happening simultaneously) to give stakeholders a better opportunity to provide feedback. Information about the reviews will be included in forthcoming communiqués and on the website as they commence.

Work on the reviews will include public consultation on a proposed social media policy. Until then, *Good Medical Practice: a code of conduct for doctors in Australia* and *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services* provide guidance about appropriate use of social media and online behavior.

CPD Audit working group

All health practitioners registered under the National Law are required to comply with a range of registration standards. The registration standards are developed by each Board after wide-ranging consultation and must be approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. All health practitioners must comply with the relevant registration standards for English language, criminal history, recency of practice, continuing professional development (CPD) and professional indemnity insurance. The registration standards for medical practitioners are published on the Board's website at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

The Board recognises that audit of CPD for medical practitioners is likely to be complex. The Board has agreed to establish a working group of internal and external stakeholders to progress work on this.

Consultation paper on review of accreditation arrangements for the medical profession

The National Law requires the National Boards to review the arrangements for the exercise of accreditation functions for their professions.

The Board released a public consultation paper in September 2012 to seek feedback on the existing accreditation arrangements as part of this review. The paper can be found on the Board's website at www.medicalboard.gov.au under 'news' and 'current consultations'.

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback by email to accreditationreview@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on Friday 2 November 2012.

Dr Stephen Bradshaw
Acting Chair, Medical Board of Australia

29 October 2012