



Communiqué

Medical Board of Australia meeting: 17 July 2013

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 registration for 2013/14

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) will commence the registration renewal campaign for medical practitioners shortly. Medical practitioners with general, specialist or non-practising registration will receive their first renewal reminders by email. Medical practitioners are encouraged to renew online.

Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

The Board has set the registration fee for 2013/14 at \$695, limiting the increase to less than the national consumer price index (CPI) of 2.5%. The annual renewal fee will apply from 1 July 2013 and cover the registration period for most medical practitioners of 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

Medical practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW will pay \$612. NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction and notifications (complaints) are managed by the Health Care Complaints Commission. The reduced fee reflects the NSW government contribution to the Health Care Complaints Commission.

More information about [the Board's fees are published online in the fee schedule](#).

Review of Good Medical Practice

The Board developed registration standards, codes and guidelines for the commencement of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010. These standards, codes and guidelines were scheduled for review at least every three years.

The Board has recently reviewed its code of conduct, *Good Medical Practice – A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia*, and is proposing minor changes to the code. The Board has undertaken preliminary consultation and will now consult on the code more widely.

The consultation paper will be published under the News section of the Board's [website](#). We encourage practitioners and the community to have a say.

Specialist pathway - short term training

The 'specialist pathway - short term training' allows internationally qualified specialists or specialist trainees who have nearly completed specialist training in another country to undertake short term training in Australia, without being required to complete the Australian Medical Council (AMC) examination or to have a full comparability assessment by the relevant specialist college.

Medical practitioners in the 'specialist pathway – short term training' can apply for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice. This pathway does not lead to general or specialist registration and international medical graduates (IMGs) in this pathway are required to return to their country of training on completion of the short term training (up to two years).

The Board will be consulting on draft guidelines on the 'specialist pathway - short term training'. The guidelines aim to clarify eligibility for this pathway, the requirements for registration for medical practitioners in this pathway and the role of the specialist medical colleges which provide advice to the Board about the suitability of the training position for the individual applicant.

The consultation paper will be published under the News section of the Board's [website](#).

Information about how complaints are managed

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has 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 practitioners](#) and a series of information 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.

AHPRA has also developed a guide for the community about making a complaint (or notification) about a health practitioner. This [Guide for notifiers: Do you have a concern about a health practitioner? A guide for people raising a concern](#) will be a focus of review by the newly-established Community Reference Group for AHPRA and the National Boards.

Both guides are published online on the AHPRA website in a revised section on complaints and notifications and are accessible through the National Board websites. AHPRA collaborated with the professional associations for practitioners registered in the National Scheme to develop the guide for practitioners.

National standards framework for intern training

As requested by the Board, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) is developing a national standards framework for intern training. The AMC and the Board have released a second joint newsletter on progress toward the development of the framework. The newsletter is available on both the Board's [website](#) and the [AMC website](#).

Accredited programs of study

The AMC is responsible for accrediting individual programs of study after it is reasonably satisfied that:

- the program of study meets an accreditation standard or
- substantially meets an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time frame.

The AMC can also refuse to accredit a program of study.

The AMC must give the Board a report after it decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions).

After being given an accreditation report, the Board may approve, or refuse to approve, the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

Any changes to accredited programs of study must be approved by the Board.

Deakin University

The Board approved the Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from Deakin University as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration in the medical profession. Approval is until 31 December 2017.

Australian National University

The Board approved the name change of the currently accredited medical program from Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) to the Medicinae ac Chirurgiae Doctoranda (MChD). The MBBS is in 'teach-out' phase, which means only currently enrolled students will complete this course. Approval of the programs continues until 31 December 2013.

Dr Joanna Flynn AM

Chair, Medical Board of Australia

24 July 2013