

Renewal of registration by optometrists

18 November 2010

The Optometry Board of Australia can advise that renewal date for optometrists under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) is 30 November.

During the transition period (from 1 July 2010 to 30 November 2011), renewal dates across the states will differ, as these depend on how long their previous registration at the state or territory level extended past 1 July 2010.

The Board advises that this means renewal fees across the states and territories will be different during this transition period until registration dates are aligned nationally. The full general registration fee for 1 December 2010 to 30 November 2011 is \$395.

The most convenient way to renew registration is online at www.optometryboard.gov.au.

Registrants will also find on the website a table outlining the first cycle of registration under the National Scheme to align all future renewals with the date of 30 November from 2011.

A feature of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (the National Law) is a guarantee of no cross-subsidisation between health professions in the National Scheme.

Registration fees for optometrists will only be invested in regulating the optometry profession, in the public interest, to ensure that the trust the public places in the optometry profession continues to be well founded.

In setting the registration fee, the Board considered:

- The resources necessary to transfer smoothly to a single national system operating under one National Law
- No multi-registration fees from practitioners registered in more than one state or territory and
- The need for prudent financial management to ensure the Board effectively meets its obligations under the National Law.

New South Wales has adopted a co-regulatory model and is participating in the National Scheme in relation to registration but not in relation to notifications of health, conduct and performance issues, which are managed by the Health Professional Councils Authority.

Thus there is a variance in the registration fees paid by New South Wales health practitioners due to the NSW government subsidising the co-regulatory model in that state.

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200