



Communiqué

The eighteenth meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 28 April 2011 at the National Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) offices in Melbourne. This communiqué outlines the issues discussed and decisions made by the Board.

Registration renewal for WA and ACT optometrists

Optometrists whose principal place of practice is WA or ACT are due to renew their registration by 30 June 2011. This will be the first time these practitioners have renewed in the national scheme.

These practitioners who intend to continue to practise and be registered will be due to renew their registration for five months until 30 November 2011. This will bring them in line with the new national registration renewal date for the profession, 30 November. The fee paid by these practitioners will be varied pro-rata.

All optometrists in Australia will then be due to renew their registration by 30 November each year.

AHPRA will be contacting registrants by phone and email (where these contact details has been provided) to remind them of the need to renew. Affected optometrists who have not received any correspondence from AHPRA by 21 May should contact AHPRA immediately on 1300 419 495.

Contact details

To ensure that your ability to work is not interrupted and to help future renewal processes go smoothly, please make sure that AHPRA has your correct email and mailing address. This will allow AHPRA to quickly, efficiently and directly send practitioners important registration information and the National Board to send information about important issues for the optometry profession.

If you have your AHPRA user ID and pass code go online at www.ahpra.gov.au and click Online Services located in the top right hand corner. Then follow the prompts to update your contact details.

If you do not yet have your user ID, complete an online enquiry form (www.ahpra.gov.au/about-ahpra/contact-us/make-an-enquiry) and select 'User ID' as the enquiry type. You will then be contacted with your user ID and password.



Policies

Within its mandate of public protection, and commitment to a nationally consistent approach to the regulation of the optometry profession, the Board has agreed to [publish](#) the following two policies:

- Supply of optical appliances, and
- Supply of cosmetic contact lenses.

These policies articulate the views of the Board to provide guidance to the profession and government.

Consultation on therapeutics as a requirement for general registration

The Board would like to thank all those who provided a submission on its first stage of consultation on the matter of therapeutics as a requirement for general registration

The Board has published these [submissions](#) on its website, unless requested not to.

The Board will release its final position for public consultation in coming months.

Board nominee for membership of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ)

The Board has published an expression of interest for appointment as a nominee for the Board for membership of OCANZ.

The Board is interested in receiving expressions from suitably qualified optometrists to act in this role. The members of OCANZ meet annually to appoint the OCANZ Board of Directors.

Interested parties are asked to submit their CV and a statement addressing the key selection criteria (outlined in the linked document) by Wednesday 1 June.

Panel members

In coming weeks, the Board will be releasing an expression of interest for suitably qualified optometrists to be appointed as panel members for health or performance panels arising from notification matters.

This expression of interest will be published on the Board's website with all key stakeholders notified on publication.

If you would like to receive an application kit on release of this expression of interest notice, then please register your interest at michelle.thomas@ahpra.gov.au.



Conclusion

The Board is committed to providing more guidance and information to optometrists to ensure they understand the requirements of the national registration and accreditation scheme and the National Law.

The Board is working closely with AHPRA to ensure the responsiveness and quality of the delivery of this scheme.

It is important that all optometrists make themselves aware of their individual obligations. The Board recommends that you review the website on the regular basis at www.optometryboard.gov.au.

A lot of information about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners is published on the Board website at www.optometryboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

If you have any questions, please complete the [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Colin Waldron
Chair
6 May 2011