



## Communiqué

The 27th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 23 February 2012 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué outlines the issues discussed and decisions made by the Board.

### Registration renewal

The renewal period for optometry has now closed. Close to 90 per cent of optometrists renewed their registration online.

Some applications require additional assessment and AHPRA will contact these individuals. Practitioners are able to practise while their application is processed. If a practitioner's name is listed on the National Register of Optometrists this is evidence for employers that a practitioner is registered, even if their registration expiry date had passed but their application for renewal is being processed.

Optometrists should check their contact details and update them if necessary to receive regular reminders from the Board and AHPRA. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

To update your contact details, go to [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au), click online services, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

### Expression of interest sought for panel appointments

The Board is calling for expressions of interest from experienced optometrists and community members interested in being included on an approved persons list for potential panel appointments.

An information package for candidates is published at <http://www.optometryboard.gov.au/News>.

Expressions of interest are open until COB Friday 30 March 2012.

### Frequently asked questions: Advertising

The Board and AHPRA have published a Fact Sheet and FAQs on Advertising a regulated health service to assist optometrists understand their obligations and follow the Board's *Guidelines for Advertising of Regulated Health Services* published on the Board's website under the *Policies, Codes and Guidelines* section.

### Continuing professional development

#### Logo

The Board has released a new logo for accredited continuing professional development (CPD) activities.

The logo contains the Board's symbol and will replace the existing logo issued by the Optometrists Association of Australia (OAA). The logo will be used by providers to advertise to optometrists accredited activities including the number and type of points associated with the activity. Accredited CPD activities are

those activities assessed as meeting the quality standards listed in the Board's *Guidelines on continuing professional development for endorsed and non-endorsed optometrists*.

The logo will start appearing in coming weeks. Optometrists should be aware that the OAA logo may still appear in some advertising material but is being phased out in coming months.

Information on applying for accreditation of CPD activities is available on the Board's website. Guidelines on the logo use are listed in the Board's *Continuing Professional Development Provider Manual* published on the website.



### *Approved provider status*

The Board has determined that the *Centre for Eye Health, NSW* meets the criteria for gaining approved provider status for the purpose of CPD activities.

CPD activities provided by Centre for Eye Health are recognised as meeting the criteria for CPD activity accreditation.

The Centre for Eye Health will be listed as an approved CPD provider in appendix B of the Board's *Guidelines on continuing professional development for endorsed and non-endorsed optometrists*.

### **Registration applications now open for four more professions**

Registration applications are now open for practitioners in the four professions joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) in July. From 1 July 2012, the following professions must be registered with their National Board to practise anywhere in Australia:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner
- Chinese medicine practitioner<sup>1</sup>
- Medical radiation practitioner and
- Occupational therapist.

Registration application forms for practitioners in these professions who intend to practise after 1 July are published on each National Board website through [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

The National Board encourages optometrists to help spread this important message and to refer anyone with questions to the website.

### **Conclusion**

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at [www.optometryboard.gov.au](http://www.optometryboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://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

27 February 2012

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<sup>1</sup> Including Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, oriental medicine practitioners and Chinese herbal dispensers