



Communiqué

The 28th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 22 March 2012 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué outlines the issues discussed and decisions made by the Board.

Consultation on amendments to the Board's Continuing professional development registration standard and guidelines

The Board has released a consultation document on amendments to its Continuing professional development registration standard and guidelines. The Board has reviewed the standards and guidelines now, earlier than the proposed 2013 date, to accommodate significant amendments and issues that need to be clarified for practitioners prior to renewal in November this year.

The proposed amendments include:

1. allowing the accumulation of CPD points over a two year period (i.e. 80 points over two years)
2. removing the CPD requirements exemption for new graduates
3. simplifying CPD activity types
4. incorporating new and emerging technologies into face-to-face activity types

The consultation document is published on the Board's website under the *News* tab. Comments are welcome until close of business 18 May.

Newsletter

The Board will publish its third e-newsletter in the coming weeks. This edition will focus on the Board's advertising guidelines.

To ensure that this newsletter reaches you check your contact details and update them if necessary to ensure you 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, 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.

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 practitioner¹

¹ Including Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, oriental medicine practitioners and Chinese herbal dispensers.

- 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.

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 or 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

26 March 2012