

Communiqué

The 38th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 28 February 2013 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting as well as other points of interest.

We publish this communiqué on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Consultations

Pending consultations

We are due to release a consultation paper on the following key documents in coming weeks:

- *Code of conduct for optometrists*
- *Guidelines for mandatory notification*
- *Guidelines for the advertising of regulated health services, and*
- *Social media policy.*

These are critical documents that apply to you as optometrists, be you an employee or employer.

We encourage you to review the document when it is published under the *News* tab on the Board's website and provide your feedback. We will notify you when it is released.

Recently closed consultations

We are currently considering the submissions received in the recent consultation on amendments to the *Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines*.

We will publish the outcome of this process in the next communiqué and more widely across the profession.

AHPRA consultation on data access and research

AHPRA is seeking feedback on its proposed [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme data access and research policy](#). The policy establishes a consistent approach for data access and research requests across AHPRA and the National Boards. This consultation closes on 5 April 2013.

Continuing professional development registration standard and guidelines

The revised *Registration standard for continuing professional development* is now in place.

The amended standard allows you to meet the CPD requirements over a two-year period. That is 80 points over two previous consecutive registration periods. It also increases the activities available to meet the face to face requirements of the standard.

You may have completed more than the minimum requirements in 2012. You will be able to count the additional points in 2013. For example, if you completed 60 points in 2012, you will need to complete 20 points in 2013 to ensure a minimum total of 80 points over the two registration periods of 2012 and 2013.

You will then need to complete 60 points again in 2014 to meet the minimum 80 points over the 2013 and 2014 registration periods.

If you are a new graduate you are now required to meet the CPD requirements in your first year of registration. New graduates were previously exempt for this first year. We have made this change to encourage engagement with your peers across the profession from the beginning of your practising life. Activities such as orientation programs run by employers may contribute to your CPD requirements.

We have revised the CPD FAQs and CPD provider manual in line with the revised standard and guidelines.

Conclusion

We publish a range of information about registration and our expectations of you as an optometrist on our 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

5 March 2013