

## Communiqué

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The 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 25 July 2013 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation 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.

### Practitioner audit

AHPRA recently ran a pilot program that audited health practitioners against the standards that practitioners must meet to become and remain registered. The goal of the audit pilot was to develop and test the systems and materials that will be rolled out across the professions in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme).

The second phase of the pilot included conducting audits for the optometry profession on behalf of the National Board. The Board recently approved the publication of a report on this audit pilot, which will be posted to the website soon.

The findings from the pilot resulted in a number of key recommendations, including to further refine supporting information and materials to ensure the audit requirements are clearly articulated, fair and transparent, and user friendly for the practitioner.

The Board looks forward to continuing to work in close partnership with the professional association to ensure that practitioners have access to clear and consistent information on future audit campaigns.

### 2013 workforce survey for optometry

The Board considered and approved a revised 2013 workforce survey for optometry, which optometrists will be asked to complete at the time that they renew their registration.

Health Workforce Australia (HWA) regularly conducts workforce data collection across a range of health professions. The surveys aim to obtain the information required by HWA for workforce planning purposes. It is mandated that the workforce questionnaires collect the agreed minimum data requirements for health workforce statistics and maintain consistency across the different professions.

Whilst it is not mandatory to complete the Workforce Survey, the Board encourages optometrists to do so. This key data assists with developing a profile of optometrists and their work activities, which can then be considered in workforce planning and policy development activities, and future workforce modelling.

### Scheduled medicines guidelines

The Board continues to defend legal action commenced in the Queensland Supreme Court by the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists in relation to the Optometry guidelines for use of scheduled medicines.

Out of respect for the legal process, the Board is not making further comment on this matter.

### More information

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

19 August 2013