

## Communiqué

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The 51st meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 April 2014 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) national office in Perth.

Prior to the meeting, the Board held in conjunction with the Western Australian Optometry Association of Australia an informal evening to meet with Perth based optometrists. This was an enjoyable opportunity to meet some of our interstate colleagues and discuss any professional issues regarding regulation.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting as well as other points of interest. We publish it on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

### Three year review

The Australian Health Ministers' Workforce Council has published the terms of reference for the three-year review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. Kim Snowball has been appointed to independently lead the review. Kim has held a variety of senior leadership roles in both the public and private health sectors.

The full terms of reference for the review are [available for download here](#). But in short the three-year review will examine:

- the extent to which AHPRA and National Boards are meeting the objectives and guiding principles of the National Scheme
- the operational performance of the National Scheme
- the National Law, including mandatory reporting, the Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council and new professions entering the scheme
- governance effectiveness, including within the National Scheme and with our key stakeholders, and
- the sustainability of the National Scheme, with a specific focus on new professions in the Scheme and funding for smaller professions.

### Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

If you were in the Twittersphere in late March 2014, you may have noticed that AHPRA has joined the conversation. Less than two weeks into AHPRA's social media journey, the CEO Martin Fletcher ran a live chat #AHPRAqanda.

The chat included nearly 60 participants, and AHPRA tweeted 99 times in the hour. If you missed it, see the chat archive from the *Twitter chat with AHPRA CEO* page on the AHPRA website.

AHPRA decided to hold the chat to respond to the online conversations about the National Board advertising guidelines, which gained momentum on Twitter with a number of practitioners and members of the community.

**AHPRA will regularly host twitter chats about important topics, and will use this forum to try and get more feedback to National Board consultations.**

### **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 questions about your registration or renewal please send an online enquiry form or contact AHRPA on 1300 419 495.**

### **Colin Waldron**

Chair, Optometry Board of Australia

12 June 2014