

## Communiqué

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The 52nd meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 May 2014 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 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.

### **Preparation for the registration standard for general registration for initial applications**

The Board are preparing for the introduction of the registration standard for initial graduates that will come into effect on 1 December 2014. The registration pathway for graduates of an approved course will recognise applicants as qualified for both optometry and scheduled medicines endorsement as an optometrist concurrently. When graduates are assessed as eligible for registration this will include endorsement for scheduled medicines and appear on the graduates registration certificate and public register without the need to apply separately for scheduled medicines endorsement.

For optometrists who are not endorsed for scheduled medicines at 1 December 2014, a notation will be added to the public register and details will appear on the back of the registration certificate that state: 'The optometrist is not qualified for endorsement for scheduled medicines and is not able to prescribe Schedule 4 medicines for the treatment of conditions of the eye.'

The Board would encourage those optometrists who are eligible for scheduled medicines endorsement that have not yet applied, to submit an application for endorsement if they do not wish for the notation to appear on their registration after 1 December 2014.

### **Consultation on registration standards and guidelines**

The Board has released a public consultation paper on the review of:

- Professional indemnity insurance, and
- Recency of practice.

We encourage all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to have input. The public consultation paper and response form can be accessed from the [Current Consultations](#) page on the Board's website. Consultation will close on 14 July 2014.

### **Advertising guidelines updated**

The Optometry Board and other National Boards have acted on the feedback they received about the Guidelines for advertising regulated health services (Advertising guidelines) released in March, and published updated versions on their websites.

The guidelines were edited to make them clearer, noting that:

- under the National Law, testimonials are not allowed when advertising a regulated health service
- the obligations of the National Law about advertising only apply when a regulated health service is being advertised, and
- the National Law is not intended to stop members of the community and patients from discussing their experiences online or in person.

For more information and a link to the guidelines, visit the [News](#) section on the Optometry Board of Australia website.

### **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

20 June 2014