

## Communiqué

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The 66th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 August 2015 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.

### **Farewell to outgoing Chair and Board members**

The Board expressed its gratitude for all the passion, commitment, tenacity and work that the outgoing members, Mr Colin Waldron, Mr John Davis, Ms Peta Frampton and Mr Lawson Lobb contributed towards the Board's work throughout their terms of appointment. The Board took the opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution and leadership of Colin Waldron as the inaugural chair at the start of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The contribution of the outgoing members has been critical to the Board's achievements since its inception and the remaining members are grateful for their stewardship.

### **Health records policy retired**

The Board has decided upon a scheduled review of its health records policy to retire the policy from circulation. The Board would like to remind optometrists of the principles and obligations in the *Code of conduct* that guide practitioners to adhere to the expected standards of optometry practice for health records.

### **AHPRA and the National Boards welcome Ministers' response to National Scheme review report**

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council met on 7 August 2015 at the COAG Health Council meeting to consider the final report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The purpose of the independent review was to identify what is working well in the National Scheme and the opportunities to improve and strengthen the operation of the scheme to regulate health professions to protect the public.

Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally.

More information about the review can be found on the [COAG Health Council](#) website and on [AHPRA's](#) website.

### **Quarterly registration data released**

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. The latest report and other statistics are published on our website under [Statistics](#).

### **Further 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.**

**Ian Bluntish**

Chair  
Optometry Board of Australia

11 September 2015