



Communiqué

The 72nd meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held via teleconference on 24 March 2016.

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.

Nominee for member of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) who is the sponsored nominee of the Optometry Board of Australia expression of interest

The Board is inviting applications from suitably qualified and experienced optometrists interested in being the Board's nominee for member of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ). The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Geoff Leunig for his work as the Board's previous nominee.

The role of the members is to appoint the OCANZ Board of Directors and receive the annual report and financial statements, as well as having significant legal responsibilities as the joint 'owners' of OCANZ including oversight of the constitution. The nominated person for director of OCANZ will be asked to represent the interests of the Board with the understanding they are not an agent of the Board. The Board will require a brief annual written report summarising the activities as a member of OCANZ. Further information is available on the Board's [website](#).

2016 Revised guidelines on the prescription of optical appliances soon to be published

The Board approved a revised guideline on the prescription of optical appliances prior to taking effect on 1 June 2016. The revision of the guideline was in response to a scheduled review. The Board has not experienced any major issues in relation to compliance with the guidelines and has not made any significant changes as a result of the consultation. The guidelines will be published on the Boards website in May to enable registrants to become familiar with the guidelines before they come into effect on 1 June 2016.

Engagement with stakeholders

Over recent weeks we have had the chance to meet with some of our professional association colleagues to discuss a range of issues related to the work of the Board and to get feedback on the work of the National Scheme.

Employer obligations

If you employ registered health practitioners, you have an important obligation to ensure that they hold current registration and that you understand your mandatory notification requirements under the National Law.

AHPRA has published [resources](#) to help you understand and meet your obligations, which are designed to complement your recruitment requirements and processes. These materials state exactly what your obligations are and it is important that you are familiar with them.

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 or www.ahpra.gov.au.

Ian Bluntish

Chair
Optometry Board of Australia

2 May 2016