



Communiqué: Optometry Board of Australia

December 2016 meeting

The 79th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 15 December 2016 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.

Have you renewed your registration? Registration renewal is now in the late period

The date for optometrists to have submitted their registration renewal was 30 November 2016.

If you have not yet renewed your registration, you can still apply to renew up until **31 December 2016**; however, a late fee will apply.

The quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is [online](#). You can keep practising during the late period but must apply for renewal of registration by **31 December**.

Under the National Law¹, if you do not apply to renew your registration within one month of your registration expiry date, your registration will lapse and your name must be removed from the [national register of practitioners](#). This means that you cannot practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

If wish to practise after this expiry date you must make a new application for registration. Fast track application forms will be available on the Board website under Registration and endorsement/Forms during January. If you are submitting a fast track application in January, you cannot practise until your application is processed and you have received confirmation from AHPRA that your application for registration has been successful.

Guidance issues on endorsements about scheduled medicines

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) has recently endorsed Guidance for National Boards: Applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of endorsements in relation to scheduled medicines under section 14 of the National Law¹ (the Guidance).

The Guidance is designed to be used by National Boards when preparing applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of a new endorsement for scheduled medicines for their profession or for approval of an amendment to the terms of an existing approval.

The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) has an existing approval, which has been in effect since the start of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) on 1 July 2010. The Guidance will be used if the Board proposes to amend the current terms of approval under section 14.

Read more on the [News webpage](#).

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Quarterly registration data

The Board has released its quarterly registration data.

As at September 2016, there were a total of 5,234 registered optometrists comprising of the following number of registrants according to registration type:

- 5,069 – general registration
- 4 – limited registration, and
- 161 – non-practising registration.

Read the latest report on the [Statistics webpage](#).

Are your contact details up-to-date?

It is important that your contact details are up to date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. You can check your details via the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website. Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

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.

For more details or help with questions about your registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, refer to information published on www.ahpra.gov.au or [contact AHPRA](#), send an [online enquiry form](#) or call on 1300 419 495.

Ian Bluntish

Chair, Optometry Board of Australia

29 December 2016

[The Optometry Board of Australia](#) is the regulator of optometrists in Australia and acts to protect the public by ensuring that suitably qualified and competent optometrists are registered. The Board is responsible for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines for optometrists and managing notifications (complaints) about optometrists and optometry students. The Board does this through its powers under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The Board's work in regulating Australia's optometrists in the public interest is underpinned by [regulatory principles](#), which encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation.*

**Except in NSW and Qld which have co-regulatory arrangements.*