



Communiqué

The 70th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 17 December 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.

Revised standards for professional indemnity insurance arrangements

The Board has published the revised professional indemnity insurance (PII) registration standard which will take effect on **1 July 2016**. The revised registration standard and a fact sheet are published on the Board's website under [Registration standards](#).

The Board also has a [news item](#) on the website which explains the key changes, when these will come into effect, and when the obligations will need to be met.

Health practitioner regulation: Learn how you're protected

A new video and an accompanying infographic explaining the Australia-wide National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) that is in place to protect members of the public was released by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in December.

Both resources are available on the [What we do](#) page of the AHPRA website or read the [news item](#) on the Board's website for more information. The video can also be watched on AHPRA's [YouTube channel](#).

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.

Optometry Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will soon publish a report of its work in the optometry profession in the National Scheme during 2014/15.

The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for optometrists in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report is drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards reporting on the National Scheme.

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

5 February 2016