



Communiqué: Optometry Board of Australia

June 2017 meeting

The 83rd meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 29 June 2017 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.

Regulatory stakeholders to gather at CLEAR

The Fifth International Congress on Professional and Occupational Regulation will be held this November in Melbourne, Australia. AHPRA will join other regulatory stakeholders from around the world to share global perspectives on licensure and regulation.

Additional information about the conference is on the [AHPRA website](#).

Use of title 'doctor'

There is no provision in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, that prohibits a practitioner from using titles such as 'doctor' but there is potential to mislead or deceive if the title is not applied clearly.

If practitioners choose to adopt the title 'Dr' in their advertising and they are not registered medical practitioners, then (whether or not they hold a doctorate degree or PhD) they should clearly state their profession. Advertisers should avoid developing abbreviations of protected titles as these may mislead the public. It may also be misleading to use symbols, words or descriptions associated with titles.

Clarity may be achieved by including a reference to the health profession whenever the title is used, such as:

- Dr Isobel Jones (Optometrist).

Guidance on the use of the title 'doctor' is found in the Board's *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services* on the Board [website](#). Other advertising resources are found on AHPRA's [website](#).

May newsletter

The Optometry Board of Australia issued its 12th Board newsletter on 31 May 2017. Articles of interest included an update on the review of continuing professional development registration standard and guidelines for endorsed and non-endorsed optometrists, information on a repeat offender fined for holding himself out as a registered optometrist and guidance on mandatory notifications for optometrists.

More information is available on the Board [website](#).

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.

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



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

July 2017

[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.*