



## Communiqué: Optometry Board of Australia

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### September 2018 meeting

The 96th meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 27 September 2018 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.

#### **Endorsed Scheduled Medicines Registration Standard and Guidelines**

In the interest of public health, the Board will address the issue of the need for an alternative to the recent withdrawal of a well-known aciclovir topical drug by its manufacturer for treating ocular herpes. The Board will consider a revision of its list of topical medicines in Appendix B of its Scheduled Medicines Standard and Guidelines to possibly include ganciclovir. Prior to doing so, the Board will consult with its key stakeholders.

#### **Farewell to three members of the Board**

The Board thanked and said farewell to three valued members who have served the Board for a maximum of three terms or nine years each. The three members were:

- Ms Jane Duffy OAM (Victoria) – practitioner member on the Board and Chair of the Board's Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee.
- Mr Garry Fitzpatrick (Western Australia) – practitioner member on the Board, Chair of the Board's Finance and Risk Committee and member of the Board's Policy and Education Committee.
- Mr Derek Fails (New South Wales) - practitioner member on the Board, member of the Board's Finance and Risk Committee and member of the Board's Policy and Education Committee.

The Board appreciated their tireless energy and commitment to achieving its regulatory objectives and for their many contributions to the success of its activities and projects. The Board wishes our former members the very best for the future and in their continued contributions to the profession and the Australian community.

#### **Publishing of links on the public register**

Steps taken by AHPRA are underway to publish links to disciplinary decisions and court outcomes to the public register of registered practitioners across all professions. The Board supports the principle that there will be no links to decisions where there have been no adverse decisions made by the relevant tribunal or court. The Board has provided input to the principles for the publishing of links which will be finalised by AHPRA following consultation.

#### **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](http://www.optometryboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

For more details or help with questions about your registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Scheme, refer to information published on [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://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

October 2018

*[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.*