

Communiqué

December 2021

The Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) meets each month to consider and decide on matters related to its regulatory functions under the National Law and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and matters regarding the National Scheme. Since March 2021, the Board has held all of its meetings by video conference.

New professional capabilities come into effect on 1 January 2022

The new professional capabilities for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons come into effect on 1 January 2022.

The Board published the [professional capabilities](#) well in advance of them coming into effect, so practitioners, employers, supervisors and other others had time to get familiar with them. We've also published some FAQs.

The professional capabilities describe the threshold or minimum level of professional capability needed for registration as a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon. They identify the knowledge, skills and professional attributes a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon needs to practise independently in Australia and to provide safe, high quality, culturally responsive, person-centred care throughout their career.

Accreditation Committee vacancies

The Board is looking to appoint interested people to the Podiatry Accreditation Committee. The Committee is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) and plays an important role in developing accreditation standards and assessing programs of study against these standards.

Applications close on Sunday **16 January 2022**. See our [news item](#) for more information.

Renewal of registration – late applications

We're now in the late period for registration renewal.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons have until 31 December 2021 to apply to renew their registration.

If you do not apply to renew by 31 December, your registration will lapse.

If your registration lapses, your name will be removed from the [Register of podiatrists](#), and/or the Board's specialist register in the case of podiatric surgeons, and you will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration has been assessed and the public register is updated.

Advance copy of supervised practice framework published

Twelve National Boards and Ahpra have published an advance copy of the revised *Supervised practice framework*. The framework has been revised to reflect a responsive and risk-based approach to supervised practice across the National Scheme.

The Podiatry Board is among those implementing the framework in 2022.

The framework comes into effect on **1 February 2022**. An advance copy has been published to allow time for supervisees, supervisors, employers and others to familiarise themselves with the revised framework.

Read more in the Board's [news item](#).

Annual report released

Ahpra and the National Boards have released the 2020/21 Annual report on the work of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). A continued growth in the registered health workforce is highlighted in the Annual report.

While it was another year dominated by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of regulation continued and adapted to the impacts of the pandemic. A particular focus was to ensure that students were able to graduate with sufficient clinical experience despite placement delays. National Boards also looked to greater flexibility in some regulatory requirements, while maintaining a clear focus on patient safety.

You can read more about the annual report in the [news item](#)

A podiatry-specific statistical summary and a report from the Chair that covers the work of the Board over the 12 months to 30 June 2021 is also now available on our [website](#). The summary draws on data from the annual report.

This information provides a snapshot of the podiatry profession as at 30 June 2021 and includes the number of registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons, a breakdown by gender and age and outcomes of practitioner notifications. Podiatry-specific data tables are also available for downloading.

Latest registration data published

The Board's quarterly registration data to 30 September 2021 is published on its website. Read the latest report [here](#).

Newsletter from the Board

The Board published a newsletter in November. If you missed it, you can read it on the Board's *Newsletters* [page](#).

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons on its [website](#). For more information see the [Ahpra website](#). Alternatively, contact Ahpra by an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

Season's Greetings

As another challenging year draws to a close, on behalf of the Board I wish you all a safe and happy festive season and all the best for 2022.

A/Prof Cylie Williams
Chair, Podiatry Board of Australia

20 December 2021