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Physiotherapy Board of Australia

Communique

Ninth meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia 25 June 2010

The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008.* At its ninth meeting, held in Melbourne, the Board met for the last time before the commencement of the national scheme on 1 July. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

Communication

The Board is committed to continuing to engage with its stakeholders and providing regular updates on its work after 1 July when the national scheme begins. The Board is interested in feedback about what issues you would like to see addressed or clarified and how you think this is best communicated. The main channel of information to the profession and the community about the work of the Board will be the Board's website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au but the Board is open to other suggestions to improve the effectiveness of its communications.

Codes, guidelines and registration standards

The following codes and guidelines are available on the website:

- Code of conduct for the physiotherapy profession
- Guidelines on advertising
- Guidelines on mandatory reporting
- Guidelines on continuing professional development
- Guidelines for physiotherapists regarding medicines
- Guidelines on recency of practice
- Guidelines on limited registration
- Guidelines on substantially equivalent qualifications
- Guidelines on supervision (with a procedural framework for supervision to come)

All physiotherapists are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the codes and guidelines and also with the registration standards, also published on the website:

- [redacted]
- English language skills
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

FAQs will be updated regularly on such topics as continuing professional development and recency of practice.

Transition to the new scheme

After being sent letters from the Physiotherapy Board of Australia over the past weeks, registered physiotherapists should be aware of the commencement of the national registration and accreditation scheme from 1 July. The Board

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encouraged physiotherapists to ensure that they were registered with their current State or Territory registration authority before 1 July to make sure that their registration transitioned smoothly to the new scheme.

All new applications for registration will require the applicant to meet all of the new requirements for registration, including criminal history checking and English language skills.

National call centre

The national call centre has provided information to registrants across all professions and has developed some Frequently Asked Questions to address themes emerging from callers. For Physiotherapy, the important issues of Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements under the national law and Continuing Professional Development made up the majority of queries to the call centre. The call centre will continue to operate after 1 July to ensure that registrants and those wishing to register have access to all the information they need.

Registrants are encouraged to check the website first for answers to frequently asked questions (www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au).

The call centre number is: **1300 088 590**

Registration Fees

The Board set national registration fees for 2010-2011. The Annual Registration fee for a physiotherapist is **$190**. The full list of fees for the various types of registration are available on the website. A separate column of fees for NSW is on the fee list on the website. This is because of the healthcare complaints process being separately funded by that State government.

Thanks

Finally, the Physiotherapy Board of Australia thanks all of the organisations and individuals who have given considered and useful feedback and otherwise helped the Board in developing its standards, codes and guidelines.

A national scheme for registration and accreditation for all health professionals will ensure not only the best possible healthcare for Australians but ease difficulties for physiotherapists across State and Territory borders. The scheme also aims to enhance our reputation for effectively regulating the profession in the public interest and supporting the highest standards of physiotherapy.

Regular updates and FAQs will be published on the National Board website (www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au).