

FIRST MEETING OF THE PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA, 20 SEPTEMBER 2009

The first meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia was held on 20 September 2009 at the Aitken Hill conference and events venue near Melbourne. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. Appointments under this Act were announced by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 August 2009.

The twelve members of the Board are Mr Glenn Ruscoe (Chair), Ms Alison Bell, Mr Tim Benson, Dr Susan Brady, Ms Anne Deans, Dr Charles Flynn, Mrs Kathryn Grudzinskas, Mrs Elizabeth Kosmala, Ms Joanne Muller, Ms Karen Murphy, Mr Paul Shinkfield and Ms Pippa Tessmann.

Ahead of their Sunday meeting, members of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia met with members of the other nine boards for a full-day induction program on Saturday, 19 September. The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP, Minister for Health, Victoria, spoke to the induction program on behalf of all Ministers on the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

The members of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia acknowledged the responsibility that had been given to them by the Ministerial Council. They committed themselves to doing everything they could to build a world-class system of health practitioner regulation for the protection of the Australia community and for their profession.

The Board agreed that a key part of its work program will be consultation with the community, the profession and the existing State and Territory boards on matters on which they or the Ministerial Council must make decisions. The Board agreed that it needed the wisdom and experience of many people outside the Board to do its job effectively.

The Board also noted the importance of communication with the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council and government authorities, the Board's accrediting authority, the Australian Physiotherapy Council, the other nine national boards, health complaints entities in the States and Territories and tribunals in each State and Territory.

The Board noted that the Chairs of all the national boards had issued a statement on 17 September providing early advice of a consultation process in late October and November around registration and related matters. Consultation papers would be posted on the Board's website.

The main focus of the Board's first meeting was discussion of the proposals that would be the subject of this consultation. The Board agreed to have a further three meetings before Christmas 2009. Following the consultation period, the Board will finalise its position on registration proposals. At its December meeting the Board will complete this work in order to provide the proposals to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for decision.

The Board acknowledged the tight timetable for completion of the initial part of its work. The timetable was necessary so that all registrants could have advice ahead of the commencement day on 1 July 2010 of the new registration standards and requirements.

At its first meeting, the Board agreed to prepare for consultation in late October proposals on the following matters:

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] requirements for English language
skills and requirements in relation to previous practice, and
- [REDACTED].

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Glenn Ruscoe
Chair, Physiotherapy Board of Australia
22 September 2009