

## Media release

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November 2011

### First national osteopathy data released

#### **The first ever national data on osteopathy is now available with the release of Osteopathy Board of Australia information in the AHPRA and National Boards' annual report**

Osteopathy is the profession with the fewest registrants in the National Scheme, has a roughly even distribution of male and female practitioners and is dominated by young practitioners, according to data now published in the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and National Boards' annual report.

The release of the 2010-11 annual report gives an essential, first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners across 10 professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). One in 44 Australians is a registered health practitioner.

As well as profiling the professions and practitioners, the report provides the first national data on notifications (complaints) involving health practitioners and the actions taken by national boards to protect public safety.

Chair of the Osteopathy Board of Australia, Dr Robert Fendall, said the annual report demonstrated transparent and accountable reporting by AHPRA and the national board about their work in regulating the profession and protecting the public.

"The introduction of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010 represents an unparalleled reform of health practitioner regulation. This annual report provides comprehensive data about the first year of operation of the national scheme, across all areas of operation of AHPRA and the national boards," Dr Fendall said.

"There is now clear evidence that the national scheme is sound, robust and a great asset for the Australian community," he said.

Important information about the osteopathy profession published in the report includes:

- There were 1,595 osteopaths registered to practise in Australia on 30 June 2011
- About 44% of osteopaths are based in Victoria and 32% are based in New South Wales
- There are 549 students of osteopathy on the student register, which includes nearly 99,000 registered students across the 10 professions
- About 71% of osteopaths are aged between 20 and 44 years
- About 55% of osteopaths (who have disclosed their gender to AHPRA) are male (many boards before the National Scheme did not collect data on the sex of registrants)

- There were 19 notifications lodged about registered osteopaths during the year (not including concerns about advertising), representing notifications for 1.0% of all registered osteopaths
- In NSW, the Osteopathy Council took immediate action on the registration of three practitioners during the year and imposed conditions on their registration

The annual report is an important source of information about the Board's activities in 2010-11. Achievements for the Osteopathy Board of Australia during the year included; implementing and communicating to registrants the requirements of the national scheme; developing a strategic plan; ensuring that the use of the title 'Dr' is consistent on the register of practitioners; undertaking wide ranging consultations, including draft registration standards on limited registration in the public interest and revising guidelines on continuing professional development; and working closely with the Australia and New Zealand Osteopathy Council, the accreditation authority for the profession.

Dr Fendall encouraged osteopath practitioners, patients, employers, educators and the Australian community to read the 2010-11 annual report, published at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Legislation and publications > AHPRA publications*.

### More information about the National Scheme

More summaries of annual report data are published on the AHPRA website:

- [registrations](#)
- [criminal records checks](#)
- [notifications](#)
- [state and territory roundup: breakdown by profession and](#)
- [national information about other regulated health practitioner professions.](#)

#### *For more information*

- Refer to the [AHPRA Annual Report](#)
- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

*\*AHPRA and the National Boards are responsible for the management of notifications against practitioners across Australia, except in NSW, where the Health Professional Councils, supported by the Health Professions Council Authority (HPCA), are responsible.*