

## Communiqué

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### March 2020 meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia

The 121<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 27 March 2020 by teleconference. The Registration and Notification Committee (RNC) also met on the same day as the Board meeting.

The Board publishes this communiqué on our website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. At each meeting the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

#### COVID-19 messages to osteopaths

Due to the challenges brought about by the national emergency associated with COVID-19 the Board has already started to make a series of pragmatic decisions, temporarily modifying some of our regulatory requirements while maintaining patient safety. The Board has published statements addressing a range of issues, including continuing professional development, Senior First Aid Certificate, infection control and recency of practice on the [website](#). The Board will continue to update osteopaths via emails and news on the [Board's website](#).

Further information regarding COVID-19 can be accessed on the [Ahpra website COVID-19 updates page](#) including the [COVID-19 FAQs](#) that are regularly updated.

#### Extended closing date for applications for advertised Board positions

Vacancies are advertised for practitioner members from New South Wales and Western Australia. The closing date for these positions has been extended to **20 April 2020 5pm AEST**.

All National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. If you are interested, please visit the [AHPRA National Boards recruitment page](#) to download the information guide and application form. More information is provided about eligibility requirements specific to these advertised vacancies, National Board member roles, and the application process. For enquiries, please contact [statutory appointments](#).

#### Accredited programs of study

One of the objectives of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) is to facilitate the provision of high-quality education and training of health practitioners.

The National Law sets out the role of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority, the Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC), in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the osteopathy profession. Programs of study approved by the Board are published on the [Ahpra website](#).

## **Approval of extended accreditation of program of study at Southern Cross University**

Under section 49(1) of the National Law, the Board decided to continue to approve until 31 December 2022 the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences (Osteopathic Studies) / Master of Osteopathic Medicine at Southern Cross University as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in the osteopathy profession, which is the existing program of study.

## **International Osteopathic Health Week 2020 and Registrant Information Forum postponed**

International Osteopathic Health Week 2020 week which was due to be celebrated this month has been postponed until a later time due to the world-wide situation relating to COVID-19.

The registrant information forum planned for Sydney on 24 April 2020 has also been postponed. For further information and updates on these forums, please see the news [item](#).

## **Follow Ahpra on social media**

Connect with Ahpra on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to receive up to date information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



## **Keeping in touch with the Board**

The Board publishes a range of information and resources about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners on their website at [www.osteopathyboard.gov.au](http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au). Osteopaths are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting their profession.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme please refer to the information published on [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au). Alternatively, contact Ahpra by an online enquiry form or phone 1300 419 495.

## **Dr Nikole Grbin (Osteopath)**

Chair  
Osteopathy Board of Australia  
9 April 2020