



FROM THE CHAIR

As newly appointed Chair of the Osteopaths Registration Board of Queensland I would like to take the opportunity to welcome and introduce the newly constituted Board which is as follows:

Chair Dr Natalie Rutsche;

Deputy Dr Mark Kelly;

Registrant Members Dr Carly Biggs
Dr Robyn Davies

Public Members Dr Sue Brady
Ms Julie Sultmann

Legal Member Ms Carol Lee

The new Board thanks and acknowledges the outgoing Board members, Dr Graham Sanders (Chair) and Dr Nick Penney (Deputy Chair) for their time and effort over the preceding term.

FUNCTIONS OF THE REGISTRATION BOARD

Most registrants have very little idea what a registration board is or does. The Notice of Fees Due around May each year asking for registration fee alerts registrants to our existence but we would like to increase the degree of interaction we have with the Osteopathic profession.

This is the first of eight bi-annual newsletters registrants will receive during this Board's four year term. The Board will give a brief summary of a different section of the Act that governs practice within Queensland in each newsletter. Hopefully this will give each registrant a better understanding of the rights and responsibilities of an osteopath practising in Queensland.

RESOURCE PACK

Each registrant will soon receive the Board's newly developed *Resource Pack*. This *Resource Pack* will also be provided to all applicants on granting of registration and includes a copy of

the *Practice Guidelines for Queensland Registered Osteopaths* (read below), a Board-endorsed *Statement on Sexual Relation between Health Practitioners and their Patients*; and an information brochure on the Board's Health Assessment and Monitoring Program. This *Resource Pack* is to be used as a reference when seeking guidance on aspects of practice in Queensland.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

During 2004/2005 the Board undertook the mammoth task of formulating practice guidelines for the profession. A draft document was released in 2005 for comment.

The Board made some minor amendments to incorporate responses before formally adopting the *Practice Guidelines for Queensland Registered Osteopaths* in April 2006.

The Board advises these *Practice Guidelines* will be considered when dealing with public complaints against a registered osteopath so it is advisable for all practitioners to have a working knowledge of the expectations. The *Guide* is readable and mostly commonsense, but in the age of litigation, even common sense needs to be detailed.

REGENCY OF PRACTICE

During July, the Board expects to release its draft *Recency of Practice Policy* for comment in a second round of consultation with the profession. The first stage of consultation began in February 2005 with the release of the Board's *Recency of Practice Discussion Paper*.

Numerous submissions were received, collated and submitted to the Board for consideration. The results were used as the basis for the draft *Recency of Practice Policy*.

The draft *Recency of Practice Policy* will be posted on the Board's website so that it is available to the public and profession and a copy will be sent directly to those who submitted responses to the *Discussion Paper*.

All registrants and other interested parties with constructive comments are again encouraged to make a submission on the draft *Recency of Practice Policy*. Details of how and when to provide comments to the Board will accompany the *Policy*.

Registrants are encouraged to check the Board's website, www.osteoboard.qld.gov.au for release of the draft *Policy*.

After consultation and the draft are finalised and approved by the Board, the Board will request the Queensland Health Legislative Projects Unit to develop the *Policy* into regulation.

IMPLICATIONS OF PRACTISING UNREGISTERED

An osteopath who fails to pay the renewal fee is, in accordance with legislation, "holding out" and/or "claiming" to be an osteopath and is in breach of the *Osteopaths Registration Act 2001*. The title "osteopath" is a restricted title under the Act and a person must be registered to use the title. The maximum penalty for using a restricted title is \$75,000.00.

Spinal manipulation is defined as a core practice within the *Chiropractors Registration Act 2001*. This Act provides for persons performing spinal manipulation without registration and states:

(1) A person who is not a registrant, medical practitioner, osteopath or physiotherapist must not, in the course of providing a health service, perform spinal manipulation on a person.

Maximum penalty -1000 penalty units (\$75,000.00).

(2) This section does not prohibit spinal manipulation on a person by a student, under the immediate personal supervision of a registrant, medical practitioner, osteopath or physiotherapist, in the course of the student's training and instruction for a qualification as a chiropractor, medical practitioner, osteopath or physiotherapist.

(3) In this section -

osteopath means a person registered under the *Osteopaths Registration Act 2001*.

physiotherapist means a person registered under the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001*.

spinal manipulation means the high velocity application of force to a person's body that affects a joint, or group of joints, of the person's spinal column.

As a consequence any person practising spinal manipulation without holding current registration as an osteopath, chiropractor, physiotherapist or medical practitioner should be reported to the Chiropractors Board of Queensland. This includes registrants who fail to pay their renewal fee and continue to practise as an osteopath. Again this attracts a penalty of up to \$75,000.00 if found guilty.

ADVERTISING

Registrants are reminded that all advertising of a professional service must comply with the advertising provisions of the *Osteopaths Registration Act 2001*. A copy of the Act is available at www.legislation.qld.gov.au. If registrants are unsure as to whether their advertising complies with the Act, they should seek independent legal advice. The Board's staff are not in a position to provide such legal advice.

THE REGISTER

The Board maintains a register of osteopaths pursuant to Section 11(d) of the *Osteopaths Registration Act 2001*.

At 15 June 2006, the Register contained a total of 105 names, representing a net increase of 6 over the June 2005 figure.

Registrant growth since the Board's inception in 2003 follows:

- June 2003 – 80;
- June 2004 – 88; and
- June 2005 – 99.

MANDATORY NOTIFICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Registrants are required by the *Osteopaths Registration Act 2001* to notify the Board of:

- change of address (within 21 days);
- change of name (within 21 days);
- withdrawal or cancellation of the qualification relied upon for registration (within 21 days);
- a business name providing professional services if the business name is other than the registrant's own name (within 14 days);
- conviction of an indictable offence (within 30 days);
- if you are a party to proceedings in court claiming damages or compensation for alleged negligence in the practice of the profession and in which either a judgement has been delivered or in respect of which there has been a settlement of the proceedings or a part of the proceedings (within 30 days); and
- if you are registered under a corresponding law (interstate or overseas) and your registration, licence or certification under that law is affected by disciplinary action or is otherwise cancelled, suspended or made subject to a condition or an undertaking (within 30 days).

BOARD CONTACTS

The Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards performs the administrative functions of the Board. The point of contact for any issues or queries you have regarding practising in Queensland is the Assistant Registrar, Debby Ramsay. Debby is an invaluable part of the team and we all sincerely appreciate the knowledge and input she has contributed over the past Board's term and welcome her joining us for another four years.

CONTACT DETAILS

The Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards is open to the public between 9.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday (except Public Holidays). The Office is also closed between 9.00am and 12.00pm on the last Thursday of each Month for staff training. It is located at:

Level 19
Forestry House
160 Mary Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Phone : 07 3225 2532

Fax : 07 3225 2527

Email :
osteopathy@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Website : www.osteoboard.qld.gov.au.

OTHER BOARD SERVICES

Professional Standards Unit (complaints and investigations): 07 3234 0187

Health Assessment and Monitoring:
07 3234 0183

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Officer
Osteopaths Board of Queensland
GPO Box 2438
BRISBANE QLD 4001

UNTIL NEXT TIME

All Board newsletters and any draft documents will be available to view on the board website. Meeting dates for the Board are also present on the web. Thanks for reading the first issue of the 2006-2010 Board Newsletter.

Dr Natalie Rutsche
Chairperson

