



Osteopaths Board of Queensland

December 2007

R E G I S T R A N T S U P D A T E

Members of the Board

Chairperson	Natalie Rutsche, Osteopath
Deputy Chairperson	Mark Kelly, Osteopath
Registrant members	Robyn Davies, Osteopath Position vacant
Public Members	Susan Brady Position vacant
Legal Member	Carol Lee

From the Chairperson

Welcome to the December 2007 Registrants Update.

Since the previous Registrants Update, two Board members, Julie Sultmann and Carly Biggs, have resigned due to work or family commitments. I would like to record my thanks to Julie and Carly for their dedication and valued contributions and wish them well in their new roles.

Following is a brief summary of the events that the Board has been involved in over the past year. Should you wish more detailed information, you can visit the newly updated Board website at www.osteoboard.qld.gov.au

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2008.

Natalie Rutsche

Chairperson

Draft Recency of Practice Policy (at renewal)

The Osteopaths Board is now in the final stage of completing its recency of practice policy. The Board would like to thank all those who participated in the two rounds of consultation undertaken to develop this policy.

All 12 Boards supported by the Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards are expecting to refer their final policies to the government early in 2008 for conversion into Regulations that bring recency of practice into operation. It is the Boards' expectation that these Regulations will take effect for the renewal period in 2008.

The Board will not be able to release its final recency of practice policy until the government has been fully briefed on its contents. Until this time, the Board strongly advises registrants to ensure that they comply with the requirements as set out in the Recency of Practice Draft Policy paper from October 2006, (available on the Board's website: www.osteoboard.qld.gov.au), with particular emphasis on the 'recent practice' and continuing professional development requirements.

National Registration Scheme

Prior to the Federal Election, a document was ready to be signed by the Prime Minister to enable the pathway to National Registration. This has been established in an attempt to improve workplace and skills portability across the country for 9 Nationally Registered Health Professions. At this point, an intergovernmental agreement between States has yet to be signed and the new Federal Government will need to peruse all documentation before making the next move.

Do you need to be registered to attend Courses in Queensland?

The *Osteopaths Registration Act 2001* requires that persons using the title 'Osteopath' must be registered in Queensland **including** for attendance at courses in Queensland.

Registration can be processed quickly and short term registration (for a period of not more than five weeks) is at no fee. For further information please contact the Office of

Health Practitioner Registration Boards on osteopathy@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

The requirements vary for other States and you should contact the relevant Registration Board for information whether registration is required in that jurisdiction if you are planning on attending a course outside of Queensland.

Short-term registration

The *Osteopaths Registrations Act 2001* now provides for osteopaths to apply for short-term registration of up to 5 weeks, for which no application fee or registration fee will apply. The Board must be satisfied that the applicant has a good reason for a period of registration of that length. The purpose of short-term registration is to encourage the undertaking of such activities as locums; continuing professional development programs and conference attendance.

Guidelines for supervising osteopaths for student placements

Guidelines have been approved by the Board to assist Osteopaths supervising students during external University placements. The Board recognises the benefits of supervised practice for students and believe these new guidelines will give participating Osteopaths information and direction.

The Guidelines address:

- accessibility to external placement
- supervision
- supervisor's role
- supervisor's responsibility
- student's role
- student's responsibility
- insurance
- record keeping

Copies of the Guidelines are available on the Board's web site (www.osteoboard.qld.gov.au) or by contacting the Office

Register of Osteopaths

The following is an extract from the Board's Annual report 2006-07, a complete copy is available on the Board's web site (www.osteoboard.qld.gov.au) or by request from the Office.



As at 30 June 2007, the Register contained 121 Osteopaths, representing an increase of 15 practitioners since June 2006.

Gender

60% of registrants were male and 40% of registrants were female.

Age groupings

Age grouping	% of registrants
Under 25 years	3%
25 – 34 years	42%
35 – 44 years	20%
45 – 54 years	20%
55 years and over	15%
Total	100%

Geographical distribution

- 76.5% of registrants gave their addresses on the Register as within south east Queensland (postcodes 4000 to 4399 and 4500 to 4581), comprising 27.5% within Brisbane and 49% elsewhere in south east Queensland;
- 13.5% of registrants had Queensland addresses outside south east Queensland; and
- 10% of registrants had addresses outside Queensland.

Mandatory Notifications to the Board

Registrants are required, by provisions in the *Osteopaths Registration Act 2001*, to notify the Board of the following occurrences:

- 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);
- 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 part of the proceedings (within 30 days);
- 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).

Health assessment and monitoring

Sometimes, the quality of health care may suffer if a health practitioner is unwell. The Health Assessment and Monitoring program, separate from disciplinary processes, deals with issues of practitioner health.

The *Health Practitioner (Professional Standards) Act 1999* defines impairment as “a physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder that detrimentally affects, or is likely to affect, the registrant’s physical or mental capacity to perform the registrant’s profession and includes substance abuse or dependence” and outlines how the Board is to deal with an impaired registrant.

The Board may receive information from sources including the public, colleagues, employers and the registrant (with the registrant’s full knowledge and consent). Information usually includes reports from a registrant’s doctors.

The Board will request the registrant to attend an independent health assessment.

After considering information, the Board must determine if the registrant is impaired and must either:

- Enter into an agreed upon undertaking with the registrant (urine drug screening, supervision, psychiatric review);
- Conduct an investigation;
- Refer the matter to the Professional Conduct Review Panel or Health Practitioners Tribunal; or
- Take no action.

The Manager, Health Assessment and Monitoring also monitors compliance with conditions and undertakings and manages a return to work program which assists registrants who have been ill but who are now well, to return to work.

Blue Card

There have been amendments to the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000* for people who work with children under 18 in certain businesses, paid or voluntary employment. This may impact your business if you have subcontractors working for you who are in professions where State Registration does not

exist such as Naturopathy, Acupuncture or Massage Therapy. Receptionists who look after children whilst parents are being treated will now also require a Blue Card.

Further information is available from the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian on:

www.bluecard.qld.gov.au

Freecall: 1800 113 611 (Blue Card Contact Centre)

Health Quality and Complaints Commission Standards

The Health Quality and Complaints Commission (“HQCC”) (formerly the Health Rights Commission) is an independent body dedicated to improving the quality and safety of health services in Queensland. The HQCC has developed the following standards to assist health service providers understand their responsibilities to improve the quality of health services pursuant to section 20 of the *Health Quality and Complaints Commission Act 2006*:

Review of Hospital-related Deaths

Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction on and Following Discharge

Surgical Safety

Hand Hygiene

Credentialling and Scope of Clinical Practice

Complaints Management

Providers Duty to Improve the Quality of Health Services

Standards were selected after consideration of factors determining the health and well being of users of health services and the processes necessary to protect their health and well-being. The basis of consideration was: burden of disease; severity of impact on users; frequency of occurrence; major process/system failings in patient safeguards; and, legislated mandate.

The HQCC has produced a manual about the Standards which is available at www.hqcc.qld.gov.au. All registrants need to be aware of these standards and ensure compliance.

Board Contacts

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07 3234 0187

Health Assessment and Monitoring
07 3234 0183

Registrations 07 3225 2532

Other Enquiries 07 3225 2507

