



The following Members of the Physiotherapists Board were appointed on 6 September 2004 for a term of four years.

Associate Professor Bill Vicenzino (Chairperson)
Ms Kathy Grudzinskas (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Glenys Cockfield
Professor Gwen Jull
Ms Jane Leow
Mr Robert Thams
Mr Geoff Rowe (Public Member)
Mrs Margaret Sifter (Public Member)
Mr Chris O'Brien (Lawyer)

FROM THE CHAIR

Over the past year, the Board has been proactive in enabling its functions as enunciated under the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001*. These functions subserve the Objects of the Act, which are in essence to protect the community, ensure standards of practice and competence, and also to maintain public confidence in the profession of Physiotherapy. Towards this end, in March of 2005, we undertook a planning workshop to provide a focus to our work for the year and beyond. A number of tasks that were prioritised and have now been enabled are: the completion of the Code of Practice and its launch; the development and distribution of a Resource Pack; and the establishment and awarding of a research grant.

This newsletter provides an overview of these tasks as well as an outline of other Board related activities, such as: work on the draft Recency of Practice Policy; and a response to common queries regarding issues pertaining to advertising, Acupuncture and cross-border treatment, including telehealth. The Board has a strong desire to prevent registrants acting in such ways that may expose themselves to being the cause of a complaint; much of the information contained herein may be regarded in this light. Furthermore, towards this end, the Board has made available to the candidates of all entry-level University physiotherapy programs in Queensland, a lecture presentation and the Resource Pack.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable contribution that the vast majority of registrants (99.85%) make to the health of Queenslanders by practising in line with the Objects of the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001*. Such outstanding behaviour allows the Board to be proactive in the discharge of its responsibilities.

Bill Vicenzino

CODE OF PRACTICE

In accordance with the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*, the Board's Code of Practice was approved by the Minister for Health on 15 March 2005 and officially launched by the Minister in September 2005. The Board wishes to thank

all stakeholders, including representatives from professional associations, universities, community groups, other registration boards and registrants, for their input in the development of the Code.

The Code was distributed with the Board's Resource Pack in November 2005.

RESOURCE PACK

In late 2005 the Board distributed to all registrants the Resource Pack which included the Code of Practice, the Statement on sexual relationships between health practitioners and their patients and an Information Sheet providing guidance for a physiotherapist to deal with his/her own health issues if it impacts on their physiotherapy practice.

Registrants are reminded to use the Resource Pack as a referral when seeking guidance on aspects of physiotherapy practice. Please contact the Board on 07 3234 1164 if you did not receive a copy of the Resource Pack.

RESEARCH GRANT

In June 2005 the Board established a Research Funding Scheme to provide grants to support research in priority areas of the profession identified by the Board. A maximum of \$100,000 per annum for up to three years was approved for the initial grant.

The Board received a significant number of high quality applications from across Australia. In accordance with the Research Funding Scheme Guidelines, the Research Sub-Committee of the Board and two external assessors independently assessed all 'in scope' applications in accordance with the published standards and criteria.

The successful applicant, by unanimous assessment, was titled *Innovations in Physiotherapy Education*, a research proposal involving a joint collaboration between the University of Queensland (administering institution), Griffith University, James Cook University and Queensland Health.

Traditionally, physiotherapy clinical education has been an "apprenticeship/immersion" model. However, this model has placed increasing demand for training placements in the hospital sector by students, overseas physiotherapists and re-entry practitioners. The research will develop a new model of clinical education for physiotherapists divided between the use of standardised and simulated patients and clinical immersion.

REGENCY OF PRACTICE

During May 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 the recency of practice consultation process began in February 2005, when all 13 Health Registration Boards released their 'Recency of Practice Discussion Papers'. All major

submissions were returned to the Boards by July 2005.

The Board received 11 submissions to its discussion paper, which were collated and submitted to the Board for its consideration. The results were then used as the basis for the draft Recency of Practice Policy.

The draft policy will be posted on the Board's website so that it is available to the public and profession generally, and in addition a copy will be sent directly to those who submitted responses to the discussion paper.

All registrants, as well as other interested parties with constructive comments are again encouraged to make a submission on this draft policy. All details of how and when to provide comments to the Board will be included in the release of the policy.

Registrants should periodically check the Board's website www.physioboard.qld.gov.au for the release of the policy.

After the second round of consultation and the draft is finalised and approved by the Board, it will be referred to Queensland Health for development into a Regulation.

ACUPUNCTURE

The Board has received numerous enquiries from registrants relating to the use of acupuncture and dry needling techniques by physiotherapists. To assist physiotherapists using acupuncture (or any dry needling techniques) the Board has released the following statement:

- Acupuncture is not a restricted practice under the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001* or any other Queensland legislation.
- The Physiotherapist must be competent to provide any service/technique.
- If a Physiotherapist, or any other person, is performing acupuncture, they should be aware of the *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003* which applies to skin penetration including acupuncture. This legislation can be accessed on the website: www.legislation.qld.gov.au

ACROSS-BORDER CONSULTATIONS & TELEHEALTH

The Board has issued the following statement relating to the treatment of patients who reside in another jurisdiction.

Physical Consultation

Where the patient and Physiotherapist provider physically meet, the jurisdiction is the State where the consultation occurs.

Examples:

1. Home visit by a New South Wales Physiotherapist to a Queensland resident's home within Queensland requires Queensland registration.
2. Home visit by a New South Wales Physiotherapist to a Queensland resident's home, where resident has been an inpatient in NSW Hospital, requires Queensland registration.

Telehealth consultation

Where the patient consultation occurs through electronic communication and the patient and Physiotherapist are in different States, the jurisdiction is in the State where the patient is physically located.

Example:

Telephone call to a Queensland resident from a New South Wales Physiotherapist, requires Queensland registration.

INFECTION CONTROL / HYGIENE

Registrants are reminded of their legal, moral and ethical responsibility to their patients and staff to provide an effective infection control program, in order to prevent infection and cross infection. Standard precautions should be in place at all times.

These precautions include:

- Aseptic technique
- Hygiene practices such as hand washing
- The use of personal protective equipment
- Appropriate clinical layout and workflow
- Appropriate clinical work practices
- Procedures for waste disposal and sharps management
- Procedures for processing re-useable instruments and equipment;
- Appropriate practices for cleaning and maintenance of the physiotherapy practice and equipment.

A reference document for registrants is: Australian Standard AS/NZS 4187: *Code of practice for cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities*: www.standards.com.au

COMPLAINTS

Complaints received by the Board about registrants are dealt with under the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*. The following table relates to new complaints received during the 2004-2005 year.

Source of Complaint/ Information	Number of Complaints Received 2004/2005	Nature of Complaints
Consumer or consumer's representative	1	1 x Sexual assault
Other Entity	1	1 x Medico-legal examination
Referred by Health Rights Commission	2	1 x Incorrect treatment 1 x Sexual harassment
Other Information	1	1 x Sexual harassment
TOTAL	5	



ASSISTANTS IN PHYSIOTHERAPY PRACTICES/ SERVICES

The draft *Policy on Assistants in Physiotherapy Practices/ Services* has been circulated to stakeholders for comments. Following this first round of consultation, the Board has decided to review the document in light of information received to ensure that it is consistent with the national approach for assistants working within the physiotherapy profession.

IMPLICATION OF PRACTISING WITHOUT REGISTRATION

A Physiotherapist who fails to pay the renewal fee is, in accordance with the legislation, "holding out" and/or "claiming" to be a physiotherapist and therefore is in breach of section 121 of the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001*. Section 121 relates to the use of a "restricted title".

The titles "Physiotherapist" and "Physical Therapist" are restricted titles under the Act and a person must be registered to use the titles.

If a person does use a restricted title without being registered, they are in breach of section 121 of the Act and, if prosecuted, a maximum penalty of \$75,000 may be imposed.

ADVERTISING

Registrants are reminded that all advertising of a professional service must comply with the advertising provisions of the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001*. A copy of the Act is available on the website: www.legislation.qld.gov.au If registrants are unsure whether their advertising complies with the Act, they should seek their own legal advice.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF PHYSIOTHERAPY REGULATING AUTHORITIES (ACOPRA) LTD

The Council is comprised of membership from all State and Territory Registration Boards, the Heads of Schools of Physiotherapy and the APA. The Queensland representative is Kathy Grudzinkas. It includes under its brief the process for recommending to Boards the suitability of overseas trained physiotherapists (excluding those from New Zealand who are covered under Mutual Recognition legislation) for registration through the AECOP process, and the accreditation of programmes which prepare physiotherapists for entry level practice.

Points of note include the following

- Bond University has notified ACOPRA that it will be applying for accreditation - the programme leader is Libby Gass.
- The Australian Standards of Physiotherapy (previously the Australian Physiotherapy Competency Standards) are now finalised and will be launched at the APA National Congress in May 2006. All Queensland registrants who contributed to this process are thanked for their input.
- ACOPRA has made detailed submissions to the consultation phase and responses to the final report of the Productivity Commission on Health Workforce. This report has made a number of recommendations in areas

including accreditation of programmes, registration and education. The report can be found at <http://www.pc.gov.au/study/healthworkforce/finalreport/index.html>

- ACOPRA has also had an Extraordinary General Meeting and as a result has resolved to change its name to the Australian Physiotherapy Council. The Council will have a booth at the May 2006 National Congress so make sure that you visit if you have time.

RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

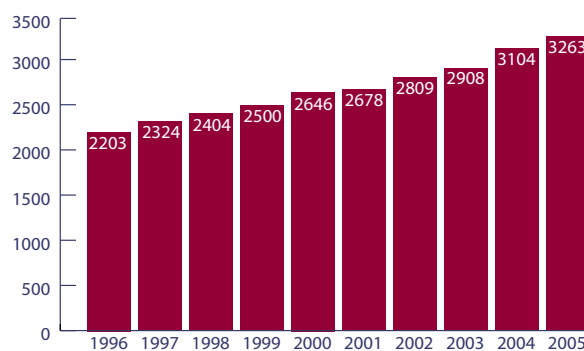
Registrants are required to apply for renewal of registration prior to 30 June each year by completing the Application for Renewal of Registration Form and paying the prescribed fee. The renewal of registration fee for 2006-2007 has been increased by CPI from \$125.00 to \$128.00. The notice is also available on the Board's website: www.physioboard.qld.gov.au

REMINDER:

- Registrants **must complete the mandatory disclosure on the renewal of registration form stating whether they suffer from any ongoing medical condition, of which they are aware, or know or ought reasonably to know adversely affects their ability to competently and safely practise the profession. If such a condition is notified to the Board, registration is renewed, but the Board may deal with the matter under Part 7 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*.**
- **Registration Fees must be received by the Office by 5.00 pm on 30 June 2006.**

GROWTH IN REGISTRANT NUMBERS

The following bar chart illustrates the growth since 1996 in the number of registered Physiotherapists at 30 June each year.



The net increase in registrant numbers over the past year is the product of significant numbers of additions to and deletions from the Register. During the year 139 former registrants were restored to the Register and 338 new registrations were processed by the Board.

Of the 338 new registrations, 173 (approximately 51%) were processed under mutual recognition. Of these 173 mutual recognition registrants, 131 lodged registration notices pursuant to the provisions of the *Mutual Recognition (Queensland) Act 1992* on the basis of holding current registration as a Physiotherapist in another Australian State or Territory; while 42 persons lodged registration notices pursuant to the provisions of the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Queensland) Act 2003* on the basis of holding current registration as a Physiotherapist



in New Zealand.

An analysis of the registration database as at 30 June 2005 provides the following information.

Age Groupings of Queensland Physiotherapists

Age Grouping	% of Registrants
Under 25 years	6%
25 - 34 years	35%
35 - 44 years	27%
45 - 54 years	22%
55 years and over	10%
Total	100%

Gender of Queensland Physiotherapists

- 27% of registrants were male; 73% were female.

Geographical Distribution of Queensland Registrants

- 78% of registrants gave their addresses on the Register as within South East Queensland (postcodes 4000 to 4571) comprising 50% within Brisbane and 28% elsewhere in South East Queensland.
- 14% of registrants had Queensland addresses outside of South East Queensland.
- 8% of registrants had addresses outside of Queensland.

The geographical statistics are based on an analysis of postcodes of the addresses of the registrants as shown on the Register. In some cases the Register address differs from the practice address of a registrant. Registrants with addresses outside of Queensland have chosen to retain Queensland registration even though, in most cases, they do not currently practise their profession in Queensland.

MANDATORY NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Registrants are required to notify the Board in the following circumstances:

- Change of name (within 21 days)
- Change of address (within 21 days)
- The withdrawal or cancellation of qualification 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 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 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).

OFFICE CONTACTS

The Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards (OHPRB) is open to the public between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and is located at:

Level 19, Forestry House
160 Mary Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000

Executive Officer: Mr J O'Dempsey
Deputy Registrar: Mr G Connell
Assistant Registrar: Mrs Pauline Portier

Phone: 61 7 3234 1164 Fax: 61 7 3225 2527
Email: physiotherapy@healthregboards.qld.gov.au
Website: www.physioboard.qld.gov.au

Correspondence should be addressed to:
Executive Officer
Physiotherapists Board of Queensland
GPO Box 2438, BRISBANE QLD 4001

MOVING INTERSTATE OR TO NEW ZEALAND

If you are considering working in another State, Territory or New Zealand, you should contact the relevant Board for information on applying for registration under the Mutual Recognition or Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition arrangements.

Contact details for the other jurisdictions are:

Physiotherapists Registration Board of NSW

Phone: 02 9219 0255
Email: physioreg@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.physioreg.health.nsw.gov.au

Physiotherapists Registration Board of Victoria

Phone: 03 9286 1888
Email: registrar@physioboard.vic.gov.au
Website: www.physioboard.vic.gov.au

Physiotherapists Registration Board of Tasmania

Phone: 03 6224 9331
Email: physio@regboardstas.com
Website: www.physioboard.tas.gov.au

Physiotherapists Board of SA

Phone: 08 8274 1488
Email: jbailey@gtsa.com.au

Physiotherapists Registration Board of WA

Phone: 08 9368 2644
Email: enquiries@prbwa.com.au
Website: www.prbwa.com.au

Physiotherapists Board of ACT

Phone: 02 6205 1601
Email: trish.dowd@act.gov.au
Website: healthregboards.act.gov.au

Physiotherapists Board of NT

Phone: 08 8999 4157
Email: healthprofessions.ths@nt.gov.au

Physiotherapists Board of NZ

Phone: 64 4 471 2610
Email: physio@physioboard.org.nz
Website: www.physioboard.org.nz

