

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS BOARD OF QUEENSLAND

Newsletter

May 2004

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The three year term of appointment for the Members of the Physiotherapists Board commenced on 6 September 2001 and expires on 5 September 2004. The new Board will be appointed for a four year term by the Governor in Council. The current Board Members are:

Ms Elaine Unkles, B Pty (Hons), B Ed St, B Bus (Hlth Admin), FCHSE, C Dec (Chairperson)
Ms Kathy Grudzinskas, B App Sc (Pty), M Bus Admin (Deputy Chairperson)
Professor Gwen Jull, Dip Pty, Grad Dip Manip, M Pty, PhD, FACP
Mr Robert Thams, B Pty
Mrs Margaret Tweeddale, Dip Pty
Dr Bill Vicenzino, B Pty, Grad Dip Sports Pty, M Sc, PhD
Ms Elizabeth Born, Dip Teach, B Ed, M Ed Stud, Cert Assess & WP Train, Dip Front Mgt
Mr Geoff Rowe, B Soc Wk (representative for users of services of physiotherapists)
Mr Chris O'Brien, B Pty, LLB (Hons), MBA, C Dec (solicitor)

RESTRICTED TITLES

Pursuant to the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001* (the Act), the use of the title "Physiotherapist" or "Physical Therapist" is restricted to registrants only. The Act states that "A person who is not a registrant must not take or use a restricted title". The maximum penalty for holding out as a physiotherapist or implying that one is qualified to practise physiotherapy is 1,000 penalty points (\$75,000).

STUDENTS WORKING AS ASSISTANTS

Anecdotal reports to the Board have suggested that physiotherapy students employed as assistants have been treating patients as if they are fully qualified and registered. Registered physiotherapists are reminded that if they employ physiotherapy students as assistants, the student must not undertake assessment and treatment of patients as they may do while on a supervised clinical placement but can only perform the tasks of an assistant. Students who, in their employment do assess and treat patients, may be subject to disciplinary action under S 121 (6) of the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001*.

REMINDER:

1. The Health Insurance Commission has access to the Register and health insurance companies do random checks on the registration status of registrants.
2. The Register of Physiotherapists is available via the "Public Access" on the Board's website or the Office website:
www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au

ANIMAL PHYSIOTHERAPY

Physiotherapists will be aware that there are an increasing number of physiotherapists who treat animals using their physiotherapy skills. Only physiotherapy registrants can advertise that they provide animal physiotherapy. The Board has notified two unregistered persons under S121 of the *Physiotherapists Registration Act 2001* that they cannot advertise that they are providing "animal physiotherapy".

ACOPRA

The Australian Council of Physiotherapy Regulating Authorities Inc has membership from all the Physiotherapy Registration Boards of Australia and also has representation on the Board from the Australian Physiotherapy Association and the Heads of Schools of Physiotherapy. The Chair of the Queensland Physiotherapists Board, Ms Elaine Unkles, is the Board's representative on the ACOPRA Board and is also a member of the ACOPRA Executive.

ACOPRA has the following committees:

The Accreditation Committee oversees the accreditation process of all new and existing physiotherapy pre-registration programs in Australia. Deputy Chair of the Queensland Physiotherapists Board, Ms Kathy Grudzinskas, is a member of the Accreditation Committee.

The Australian Examining Committee for Overseas Physiotherapists (AECOP) examines overseas qualified physiotherapists who are migrating or seeking to migrate to Australia and awards the Final AECOP Certificate which is recognised by the Boards for the purposes of registration. Ms Elaine Unkles is the Chair of AECOP.

Legislative Review Committee explores issues on behalf of the Boards and develops discussion papers for consideration by the Boards with a view to pursuing a consistent national approach to physiotherapy registration in Australia. Issues which have been addressed recently are Recency of Practice, Limited Registration and the Mobility Model for Physiotherapy Registration. Queensland Board member Mr Christopher O'Brien is Chair of this Committee.

The Major Review Committee has oversight of a review of the Australian Physiotherapy Competency Standards (APCS), first developed in 1994. Ms Kathy Grudzinskas is Chair of this Committee. This project is about to appoint a consultant and physiotherapists will have opportunities to be involved in the development of the new Standards.

Website: www.acopra.com.au

ACCREDITATION OF PROGRAMS

An applicant is qualified for general registration if the applicant holds a qualification prescribed under the *Physiotherapists Registration Regulation 2002*.

The organisation responsible for accrediting physiotherapy education programs is the Australian Council of Physiotherapy Regulating Authorities (ACOPRA Inc)

In order to determine whether educational programs should gain accreditation ACOPRA has established the Standards for Accreditation of Physiotherapy Programs at the level of Higher Education Awards and the Australian Physiotherapy Competency Standards. Institutions submitting a program for accreditation are required to demonstrate that both the students in and graduates from the program will have access to supervised clinical practice which adequately meets the Standards upon which accreditation is based.

2003 saw an increase in the number of physiotherapy courses being offered at academic institutions across Australia and a resultant increase in applications for program accreditation.

The Bachelor of Physiotherapy from the University of Newcastle was awarded Preliminary Approval from ACOPRA.

The following courses were awarded full accreditation and appear on the list of prescribed qualifications in the *Physiotherapists Registration Regulation 2002* which can be accessed on www.legislation.qld.gov.au:

Bachelor of Physiotherapy (University of Melbourne)

Master of Physiotherapy (Griffith University)

Twelve months accreditation was awarded to the Bachelor of Physiotherapy/Bachelor of Exercise Science from Griffith University and the Master of Physiotherapy Studies from the University of Queensland. The Board determined that, pursuant to section 44 of the Act, these qualifications are substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to that required for a current Australian qualification.

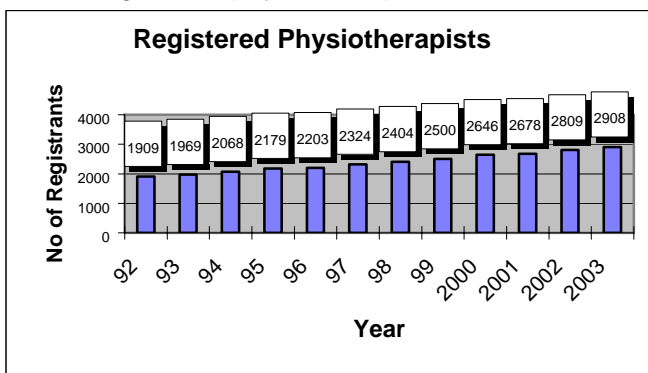
Graduates from the Bachelor of Physiotherapy/Bachelor of Exercise Science (Griffith University) and the Master of Physiotherapy Studies (University of Queensland) are eligible to apply for general registration as a Physiotherapist in Queensland.

GROWTH IN REGISTRANT NUMBERS

Did You Know?

Over the past ten years, the numbers of physiotherapists registered in Queensland has increased by 41 percent.

At 30 June 1994 there were 2068 registered physiotherapists and at 30 June 2003 there were 2908 registered physiotherapists in Queensland.



REGENCY OF PRACTICE

The Act allows the Board to introduce "rency of practice requirements on renewal of registration". Although "rency of practice requirements" have not been developed as yet, the Office of the Board has employed a project officer to prepare a discussion paper on rency of practice. The Board will consider this submission paper upon its completion. The paper will then be circulated to stakeholders within the profession for comment.

RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

The renewal of registration forms for the period 01 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 have been circulated. The forms are also available on the Board's website; www.physioboard.qld.gov.au

Registrants are reminded to complete and sign the renewal form including the mandatory declaration about any ongoing medical condition that may adversely affect the applicant's ability to competently and safely practise the profession

and submit the form with the prescribed payment to the Board by **5.00pm on 30 June 2004**.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOLLOWING LEGAL ADVICE, ONLY A REGISTRANT IS ABLE TO SIGN THE MEDICAL DECLARATION ON THE RENEWAL FORM. A POWER OF ATTORNEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

RESTORATION OF REGISTRATION

A person is only eligible to apply for restoration of registration within 3 months after the expiry of registration. If a person's registration has been expired for more than three months, the person is required to re-apply. Please note that this may cause problems for those registrants who hold a qualification that is no longer prescribed for registration purposes. Please refer to the legislation to confirm whether you hold a prescribed qualification for registration purposes, www.legislation.qld.gov.au

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q** Does the Board issue provider numbers?
- A** No, issuing provider numbers is not a Board function. Please contact the Health Insurance Commission for assistance on (07) 3004 5333.
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- Q** I am coming to Queensland for a 2 day conference to provide clinical demonstrations. Do I have to register with the Board?
- A** Yes, if you are undertaking activities relating to the profession such as engaging in research or providing clinical demonstrations you are required to obtain "Special Purpose" registration. Please access the application on the Board's website: www.physioboard.qld.gov.au
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- Q** I've lost my registration certificate, how can I confirm what my registration number is?

A The Public Access Register is now online. Simply log on to the Board's website: www.physioboard.qld.gov.au, double click on "Public Access" and follow the prompts.

Q I want to move interstate. Do I have to register with another Board?

A Yes, if you hold current registration in Queensland and wish to practise in another Australian State or Territory or in New Zealand, you are eligible to apply in that jurisdiction under the Mutual Recognition Agreement. Just contact the appropriate Board and they will assist you.

Q I've provided my residential address to the Board for correspondence but I do not want the public having access to this address. What can I do?

A When you are changing your address, simply indicate that you do not wish your residential address to be publicly accessible. However, you do not have an option if your professional or post office address appears on the Register.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

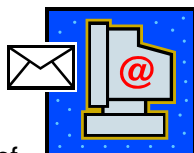
Don't forget to notify the Board in writing. Email: physiotherapy@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

PRACTICE NAMES

Practising in a name other than your own name? Don't forget to notify the Board in writing.

INTERSTATE & NEW ZEALAND REGISTRATION BOARDS CONTACT DETAILS

Physiotherapists Registration Board
Of New South Wales
Phone: 02 9219 0255



Physiotherapists Registration Board of
Victoria
Phone: 03 9286 1888
Physiotherapists Board of ACT
Phone: 02 6205 1599

Physiotherapists Board of South Australia
Phone: 08 8274 1488

Physiotherapists Registration Board of Western
Australia
Phone: 08 9368 2644

Physiotherapists Registration Board of Tasmania
Phone: 03 6231 3866

Physiotherapists Board of the Northern Territory
Phone: 08 8999 4157

Physiotherapists Board of New Zealand
Phone: 64 4 471 2610

Registrants who hold current registration in one State/Territory of Australia or New Zealand may apply to another State/Territory or New Zealand under the Mutual Recognition or Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition arrangements.

BOARD DOCUMENTS – VERIFICATION OF REGISTRATION

If you require any of the following documents, please submit your request in writing to the Board with the appropriate fee:

Statement of Registration	\$10
Statement of Fees Paid	\$10
Certificate of Good Standing	\$25

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
Assistant Registrar:	Mrs Pauline Portier
Administration Officers:	Ms Sinead Lee
	Ms Billee Johnston

Telephone: 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