

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION

BOARD OF TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2004

REGISTRATION

Enclosed with this Newsletter are your re-registration notices for 2005.

Please renew your registration ASAP!

It would be appreciated if you would pay your registration at the earliest possible opportunity as this avoids potential problems experienced due to the increase in the volume of mail at the end of December and in early January.

You must complete the re-registration form and declaration and return these to the Board with your payment. Registration forms returned after the due date of 31 January 2005 may incur a late fee of \$50.

You will notice that the declaration has been expanded in line with requirements within the Physiotherapists Registration Act 1999. If any physiotherapist is concerned that they may not be able to sign the declaration they should contact the Registrar.

INCREASED REGISTRATION FEES

With increasing costs facing the Board, it has been necessary to increase registration fees for physiotherapists as follows:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Annual registration fee: | \$150.00 |
| Application Fee: | \$150.00 |
| Late Fee: | \$50.00 |
| Restoration Fee: | \$50.00 |
| Fee for replacement certificate of registration: | \$30.00 |

You are reminded that registration fees are due and payable by 31 January 2005. Physiotherapists who do not register by this date may incur a late payment penalty of \$50, and run the risk of jeopardising their professional indemnity insurance cover, should any mishaps occur.

CHANGES TO BOARD

On 30 June 2004, Wayne Anning retired as Registrar of the Board, after 17 years service. The significant contribution made to the Board by Mr Anning over this time was acknowledged and the Board's thanks and best wishes go to him.

The Board has appointed Greg Luckman of Wilson Management and Administration Pty Ltd as Registrar, effective 1 July 2004. The Board's office is now located at 299 Macquarie St and can be contacted on 6224 9331 and by email physio@regboardstas.com

The Board staff, who all work for the Board on a part-time basis, are:

Greg Luckman, Registrar

Jayne Wilson, Assistant Registrar

Geraldine Frances, Secretary

Full contact details are provided at the bottom of this page. The office is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday for all enquiries, payment of renewals and for the purpose of lodging documents.

WEBSITE

The Board has developed a website at www.physioboard.tas.gov.au to assist in communication with physiotherapists and the public.

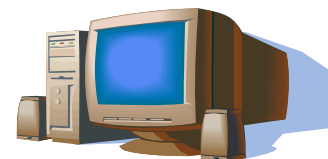
Access is provided to the following documents:

Registration Procedures and Application forms

Board policy documents

Newsletters

Legislation



The website also has linkages to interstate registration boards, ACOPRA and the government legislation unit.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF TASMANIA

ABN: 70 299 292 779

PO Box 6,
South Hobart
Tas 7004

1st Floor, 299 Macquarie Street, Hobart

Telephone: (03) 6224 9331

Fax: (03) 6224 9700

Email: physio@regboardstas.com

PATIENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The NSW Physiotherapists Registration Board has produced an excellent pamphlet dealing with the rights and responsibilities of people receiving physiotherapy services. The pamphlet deals with the appropriate standards of care and service for patients, and the responsibilities of patients in receipt of such care.

The Board recommends that Tasmanian physiotherapists familiarise themselves with the principles contained in the leaflet. The leaflet can be viewed at www.physioreg.health.nsw.gov.au

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

A major cause of the increase in registration fees has been the expenses incurred by the Board in investigation of complaints against registered physiotherapists.

Once a complaint has been received, the Board is obliged to investigate the complaint (unless considered vexatious or frivolous). The costs of conducting investigations and hearings can be considerable. Costs incurred by the Board are ultimately paid for by registration fees of registered physiotherapists, unless able to be recovered from the defendant.

The Board has recently incurred considerable expense in relation to a complaint of sexual misconduct made by a member of the public against a registered physiotherapist. Following investigation, the physiotherapist concerned was found not guilty of sexual misconduct but was found to be guilty of professional misconduct by over servicing by providing the patient with physiotherapy services more frequently than was therapeutically appropriate.

As a result of the hearing, the Board has required the physiotherapist to undertake an additional course of study and to participate in an external review of their practice to ensure that it is in compliance with the Australian Physiotherapy Competency Standards.

RECORD KEEPING

You are reminded of the requirement for physiotherapists to keep appropriate records of clinical findings and treatment in accordance with the Australian Physiotherapy Competency Standards 2002. These requirements are detailed in the Board's November 2003 Newsletter, which is now available on the website at www.physioboard.tas.gov.au

REPORTING OF ERRORS TO THE BOARD

Any civil claims for damages against a physiotherapist for negligence in his or her practice as a physiotherapist must be reported to the Board within 14 days. Physiotherapists are reminded that this is a legal requirement, as detailed in Section 61 of the Physiotherapists Registration Act 1999. Failure to report a claim for damages may be grounds for disciplinary proceedings.

CHANGES OF PERSONAL DETAILS

Physiotherapists are reminded that they must inform the Board of any change in their contact details such as address, work contacts, phone numbers etc

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Board membership consists of three physiotherapists and two consumer representatives.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Dennis Holzberger | – Physiotherapist & Chairman |
| Julia Drew | – Physiotherapist |
| Janet Millner | – Physiotherapist |
| Peter Lloyd | – Consumer Representative |
| Margaret Murray | – Consumer Representative |



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OFFICE HOURS

The Board's office will close at 12 noon on Friday 24 December 2004 and will re-open on Tuesday 4 January 2005.

The members and staff of the Board wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year!

GREG LUCKMAN
REGISTRAR