



Submissions received – Register standards, guidelines, codes and requirements.

Board Decision

Background

Section 66 (3) of the ARONAH constitution states that a function of the Board is to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the Profession, including (b) the development of standards for the Profession for admittance as a Member; and (c) the development and approval of codes and guidelines that provide guidance to Members.

Section 67 (5) states if Board develops a registration standard or a code or guideline, it must ensure there is wide-ranging consultation about its content, including consultation with Members.

Accordingly, the ARONAH Board sought feedback on the following ARONAH register standards, guidelines, codes and requirements

- Proof of Identity Requirements
- Criminal History Register Standard
- English Language Skills Register Standard
- Code of Conduct
- Guidelines for Advertising of Naturopathic and Western herbal medicine services
- Professional Indemnity Insurance Register Standard
- Guidelines for continuing professional development
- Guidelines on patient record keeping
- Recency of practice guidelines

Submissions

The public consultation period ran for an 8 week period during 4 January to 1 March 2013. Two submissions were received. Submissions approved for website publishing are available at the Board's website: www.aronah.org

The board considered the issues raised by the submissions and further to any substantive comment, formed the following opinions:

Proof of Identity Requirements

No substantive changes made for these requirements.

Criminal History Register Standard

This standard is modelled on the AHPRA Criminal History Standard and will be reviewed three years after commencement or before this time if there is significant change to this standard at the AHPRA boards and the ARONAH board deems modification appropriate. No substantive changes made for this standard.

English Language Skills Register Standard

Significant numbers of naturopaths and herbalists are trained overseas and must meet this standard as required by all other health practitioner boards. This standard is modelled on the AHPRA English language Skills Register Standard and will be reviewed three years after commencement or before this time if there is significant change to this standard at the AHPRA boards and the ARONAH board deems modification appropriate. No substantive changes made for this standard.

Code of Conduct

The board has considered the use of the terms patients and clients and the board has decided to retain both as accepted terminology.

Technology based patient consultations is an issue currently being considered by ARONAH and AHPRA boards and ARONAH will develop a separate policy on this issue in the future. The principles of the Code of Conduct must be upheld by practitioners using technology based consultations.

Details of maintaining adequate clinical premises will be developed as a separate policy in the future. The Code of Conduct requires that clinical services are delivered in a safe and ethical manner, which extends to premises in which those services are performed.

ARONAH is required to develop eligibility criteria for supervisors and supervisory requirements under a separate policy and will be based on those used by AHPRA. Supervisors and supervisees must at all times adhere to the principles of the Code of Conduct. No substantive changes to the code of conduct was made.

Guidelines for Advertising of Naturopathic and Western herbal medicine services

ARONAH will be developing educational resources pertaining to advertising in the future to assist naturopaths and herbalists know their obligations under these guidelines. Naturopaths and herbalists are being held to the same advertising standards as the registered health professions and are based on the AHPRA advertising guidelines. Considering some naturopaths and western herbalists work in pharmacy settings items the board has added 7.4- 7.7 in line with other AHPRA boards.

Professional Indemnity Insurance Register Standard

No substantive changes made for these requirements.

Guidelines for continuing professional development

The board considers the CPD guidelines reasonable as they can be achieved through a variety of mechanisms and are lower than the requirements of some professional associations. As the guideline requirements are higher than expected in other professional associations, the board has decided to scale up the requirements over time. Once guidelines are finalised, the board will develop more detailed practitioner materials for CPD. No substantive changes made to these guidelines.

CPD points will be calculated as 1 hour of active learning per CPD point.

Guidelines on patient record keeping

This standard is modelled on the AHPRA Guidelines on patient record keeping and will be reviewed three years after commencement or before this time if there is significant change to this standard at the AHPRA boards and the ARONAH board deems modification appropriate. No substantive changes made to these guidelines.

Recency of practice guidelines

This standard is modelled on the AHPRA Guidelines on recency of practice and will be reviewed three years after commencement or before this time if there is significant change to this standard at the AHPRA boards and the ARONAH board deems modification appropriate. No substantive changes made to these guidelines.

Recommendation

Based on the above considerations the Board has agreed to make the subsequent changes to its proposed Guidelines for Advertising Western and Naturopathic and Western Herbal Medicine Services and Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development, which are now published to its website www.aronah.org.