

# AMT Board Communique



## Communique

The AMT Board met on November 17 at AMT Head Office in Newtown. This communiqué outlines the issues that were discussed at this meeting and decisions taken, as well as other points of interest.

We publish this communiqué on the AMT website and email it to a range of stakeholders. Please forward it to colleagues and any other parties who may be interested.

## Health Training Package review

Members of AMT's education committee have been actively involved with the review of massage therapy qualifications within the Health Training Package. New packaging rules will allow for more prescriptive assessment requirements, particularly in regard to supervised clinical practice.

The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CSHISC) will put out draft versions of the qualifications for consultation at the end of February 2014 for a period of two months. AMT will notify stakeholders when the consultation period commences.

At a subsequent CSHISC Industry Reference Group meeting, there was some discussion of new assessment requirements for the recently reviewed First Aid unit of competence (Provide First Aid, HLTAID003). The AMT Board has some concerns about the performance evidence for this unit, which currently requires first aiders to demonstrate the capacity to perform at least four minutes of uninterrupted CPR on both an infant and adult resuscitation mannequin placed on the floor. In effect, this may mean that those who are not physically able to perform 4 minutes of uninterrupted CPR on the floor would not receive a massage therapy qualification since the first aid competence is currently in the core of the qualifications. AMT has registered concern with CSHISC and is currently researching the ramifications of the requirement.

## AMT Annual Conference

The Board has analysed the feedback from the recent AMT conference and will use this analysis to inform planning and preparations for 2014. The 2014 conference will be held centrally in Melbourne in October.

## Medibank

On October 22, AMT, AAMT, ATMS and ANTA met with Medibank and representatives from the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council and the Australian Skills Quality Authority to discuss training standards and proposed provider recognition criteria. The intent of the meeting was, in part, to inform Medibank of the context in which training package qualifications are delivered and assessed, and the roles of the various bodies in establishing and monitoring standards.

Medibank is yet to circulate its new provider recognition requirements to the relevant Associations. The AMT Board discussed strategies to break the current stalemate. In addition to actively lobbying Medibank to notify AMT of their final requirements by mid-December, the Board has mapped out a plan to strengthen our negotiating position with the fund.

## Regional branches of AMT

The AMT Board acknowledges the challenges faced by regional representatives in coordinating local branch meetings and events. The Board agreed that the regional branch system should be simplified so that infrastructure requirements at local level are less burdensome. This would involve some degree of centralisation, with more resources being provided from AMT Head Office to support structured networking at a local level. The Board remains committed to providing continuing education and networking opportunities to regional members of AMT.



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## **Dry Needling Standards**

The AMT Education Committee recently reviewed and re-endorsed AMT's recognition criteria for post-graduate dry needling workshops, in line with the standard for Dry Needling in the AMT Code of Practice. A position statement will be circulated to AMT members, clearly outlining the risk management implications of dry needling and highlighting the need to demonstrate compliance with both legal statutes and AMT standards of practice.

## **Advertising standards**

The AMT Board expressed alarm that a small number of rogue operators are advertising as remedial massage therapists and offering health fund rebates in the Adult Services classifieds of local newspapers.

Advertising as an adult services is a clear breach of the AMT Code of Ethics and grounds for instant dismissal from the Association. AMT members found to be in breach for advertising in Adult Services will be expelled.

The Association has worked tirelessly since 1966 to correct the misapprehension that massage therapy is an adult or sexual service. The actions of these rogue operators not only undermine AMT's ideals, principles and objectives; they also jeopardise the agreements that AMT enters into with the private health funds by promoting services that are not recognised or endorsed by the Association.



*in good hands*

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