



**Osteopathy  
Council  
of NSW**

# **Osteopathy Council of NSW**

Annual Report 2017-18

# President's Message



**Osteopathy  
Council**  
of NSW

I am pleased to submit the 2018 Annual Report for the Osteopathy Council of New South Wales (Council).

The number of new complaints this year is higher than in 2016/17.

The standards expected of registered health care professionals are high, and must remain so to protect the public from unsatisfactory professional performance or conduct. Consistent with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW), the paramount consideration of the Osteopathy Council is protection of the health and safety of the public. To that end, the Council enjoys a close and collaborative working relationship with the HCCC.

Again in 2018, Stiofan Mac Suibhne and I accepted an invitation to speak to the final year osteopathy students at the Lismore campus of Southern Cross University. The aim of our address was twofold: (i) to impress upon the students that upon graduation and registration, the welfare of their patients should be their primary professional concern, and (ii) to inform them about the devastating professional, psychological and economic consequences that would flow from engaging in conduct below the standard reasonably expected of a practitioner of an equivalent level of training or experience.

Once again, the Council finished the year with a budget surplus, largely due to the surcharge that NSW practitioners pay to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency on top of their annual registration fee. This surcharge will be reviewed in 2018.

The Council is exceedingly grateful to those NSW osteopaths who assist the Council to fulfil its regulatory responsibilities by serving as performance assessors or as hearing members on Tribunals and impaired registrants panels. Council members are forever mindful that disciplinary and remedial proceedings are intellectually demanding and emotionally challenging.

The Council would also like to thank the HPCA staff dedicated to this Council, Mr Michael Jaques, Mrs Christine Gursen and Mr Anthony Tobin for their support and sound advice throughout the year.

I particularly want to thank Mr Stiofan MacSuibhne and Mr Stuart Hammond, who decided not to renominate for appointment when their term ends on 30 June 2018. Stiofan and Stuart were insightful, erudite colleagues who helped the Council become proactive, stable and efficient, and on a personal note, helped me enormously in my role as a new President when we first joined in 2012.

Our new members are osteopaths Dr Kerrin Murnane and Dr Terry Stewart commencing on 1 July 2018. Kerrin will fill the role of Deputy President. Ms Soraya Mir remains our legal member.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Cooper', with a checkmark at the end.

**Ms Anne Cooper**

President

Osteopathy Council of New South Wales

## Regulation of Osteopaths in 2017/18

# SNAPSHOT



### Practitioner information

**582**

osteopaths registered in NSW

3.2% more than last year

24.4% of registered osteopaths in Australia

**13**

NSW osteopaths had complaints made about them

5 more than last year

2.2% of registered osteopaths in NSW



### Complaints received

**15**

new complaints were received

4 more than last year

1 complaint was a mandatory notification

33.3% of complaints were about boundary violation (n 5) followed by:

- National Law offence – 4 complaints
- National Law breach – 2 complaints

**40%**

of complaints were from patient (n 6) followed by:

- other practitioner – 4 complaints
- AHPRA – 2 complaints



### Complaints managed

**8**

complaints were managed directly by the Council

4 more than last year

**2**

assessments and hearings were concluded

2 less than last year

**0**

immediate actions were considered or taken by Council

3 less than last year

**0**

0 outcomes for closed complaints involved cancelled or suspended registration

1 involved conditions on practice

2 involved counselling or interview



### Practitioners monitored

**2**

cases were being actively monitored at year end

1 conduct

0 performance

1 health

## Council Members

Four members sit on the Osteopathy Council as prescribed by the National Law.

Registered osteopathy practitioner members:

- Ms Anne Cooper RN, DO, MMedHum
- Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne BSc (Hons) Osteopathy, PGCertEd, PG Cert Hlth Sci (Acupuncture), M Hlth Prac (Rehabilitation)
- Mr Stuart Hammond BAppSc (Ost), MOst

Legal member:

- Ms Soraya Mir BSc (Hons), LLB, LLM, Grad Dip Corp Govn, BPsych(Hons)

The NSW Governor appointed Ms Anne Cooper as the President and Mr Stiofan MacSuibhne as the Deputy President of the Osteopathy Council.

Dr Kerrin Murnane commences as Deputy President on Mr MacSuibhne's retirement as Deputy President in July 2018.

## Executive Officer

Ms Asha Mears is the current Executive Officer for the Osteopathy Council. Mr Michael Jaques was the previous Executive Officer. Ms Farina Bains and Mrs Christine Gursen also provided Executive Officer support to Council during the year. Their work is acknowledged with thanks and appreciation. The Executive Officer leads a team that works directly and indirectly with the Council as part of the HPCA Combined Councils Team.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

## Council Meeting Attendance

The Osteopathy Council met eleven times.

**Table i: Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and term of office**

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Date of first appointment	Current Term of Office
Ms Anne Cooper - President	11	11	1 July 2012	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne - Deputy President	10	11	1 July 2012	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
Mr Stuart Hammond	11	11	1 July 2015	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
Ms Soraya Mir	10	11	6 March 2013	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018

Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

## Regulatory Committees and Panels

The National Law sets out the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panels (IRP)
- Performance Review Panels (PRP)

The Council appoints regulatory committees and panels as needed.

The Council acknowledges and thanks the practitioners and lay members who assist with panels and hearings.

## Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Osteopathy Council did not appoint any committees during the year.

## Meetings and Events

The Osteopathy Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

**Table ii: Osteopathy Council representation at meetings and events**

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By
Osteopathic International Alliance Conference	Ms Anne Cooper – President
Consultation Forum on Mandatory Reporting Reform in the National Law	Ms Anne Cooper – President
National Board Chairs and NSW Council Presidents joint meeting	Ms Anne Cooper – President
Presentation at Southern Cross University Lismore	Ms Anne Cooper – President Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne – Deputy President

## Overseas Travel

Overseas travel costs for the Osteopathy Council included attendance at the Osteopathic International Alliance Conference in Auckland, New Zealand by Ms Anne Cooper from 8 to 10 September 2017 at a cost of \$677.85.

## Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Council Members	\$1,752 per annum

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

## Education and Research Account

The Osteopathy Council maintains an Education and Research account. This helps fund activities that promote better understanding of professional standards and compliance, issues that can lead to complaints and how complaints are managed. The account may also be used to fund relevant research activity including both Council specific initiatives and collaborative projects.

There was no expenditure from the Education and Research account this year.

## Financial Management

The Osteopathy Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

Accounts Performance 2017/18	\$
Revenue	208,644
Operating expenditure	175,603
Gain / (loss) on disposal	(32)
<b>Net result</b>	<b>33,009</b>
<b>Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	<b>214,509</b>

\* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$231.

The Osteopathy Council's budget for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 is as follows.

Budget 2018/19	\$
Revenue	205,667
Operating expenditure	231,778
<b>Net result</b>	<b>-26,111</b>

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.