



**Osteopathy  
Council**  
of NSW

Annual Report 2016-17



# President's Message



**Osteopathy  
Council**  
of NSW

I am pleased to submit the 2017 Annual Report for the Osteopathy Council of New South Wales (Council).

The number of new complaints this year is slightly higher than was the case in 2015-16. Two of these new complaints were grounded in police charges and will be prosecuted in the criminal jurisdiction in the first instance. Depending on the outcomes, it is likely that the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) will also prosecute the matters before a Tribunal.

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.

Towards the end of the academic year in 2016, I accepted an invitation to speak to the final year osteopathy students at the Lismore campus of Southern Cross University. The aim of my address was twofold: (i) to stress to 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 professional, psychological and economic consequences that could flow from engaging in conduct below the standard reasonably expected of a practitioner of an equivalent level of training or experience.

The Council finished the year with a trading surplus, largely due to the surcharge that NSW practitioners pay to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency on top of their annual registration fee. Regrettably, the Council will need to retain the surcharge for at least another year in order to build reserves to meet any unexpected regulatory expenses.

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 Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA) executive staff dedicated to this Council, Mr Michael Jaques, Ms Christine Gursen and Mr Anthony Tobin for their kindness, support and sage advice throughout the year.

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

**Anne Cooper**

President

Osteopathy Council of New South Wales

Regulation of  
Osteopaths in 2016/17

# Summary overview



**11**

**New complaints  
received during the  
year related to**

Conduct – 7  
Performance – 2  
Health – 2

1 complaint was a  
mandatory notification



**564**

**Registered  
Osteopaths in NSW**

1.4% less than the previous year  
25.3% of Osteopaths in Australia  
1.4% of Osteopaths in NSW had  
complaints made about them –  
8 practitioners



**14**

**Complaints managed**

3 open at start of year  
11 received during the year  
3 immediate actions including reviews  
4 assessments and hearings concluded  
5 closed during the year  
9 open at year end  
2 active monitoring at year end



**5**

**Outcomes for closed complaints\***

2 discontinued  
1 no further action  
1 conditions on registration  
1 referred to another body

\* A complaint may have more  
than one outcome

### **Council Communications**

The Osteopathy Council website is the Council's primary communications tool to engage with osteopaths and the wider community. The Council's website is being redeveloped and updated and is expected to provide a modern, more interactive and user-friendly platform for the public, practitioners and other visitors.

The website redevelopment involved stakeholder and community consultation including workshops, focus groups and user testing. The new website will include easy access to the Council's new online complaint form, with detailed information about the complaint process and will make it easier for visitors to access information about the Council, including policies and publications.

The new website is expected to be launched in August 2017.

### **Council Members**

Four members sit on the Osteopathy Council as prescribed by section 41E of the National Law.

Registered osteopathy practitioner members:

- Ms Anne Cooper RN DO MMedHum
- Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne BSc (Hons), Osteo PG, CertEd, PGDip, HSc
- Mr Stuart Hammond BAppSc (Ost), MSt

Legal member:

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

Ms Anne Cooper is appointed by the Governor as President of the Osteopathy Council.

Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne is appointed by the Governor as Deputy President of the Osteopathy Council.

### **Executive Officer**

Mr Michael Jaques is the Executive Officer for the Osteopathy Council and Ms Christine Gursen is the Assistant Executive Officer.

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 11 times during the year.

### Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and length of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Length of Office*
Ms Anne Cooper – President	10	11	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2018
Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne – Deputy President	6	11	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2018
Mr Stuart Hammond	9	11	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
Ms Soraya Mir	10	11	6 March 2013 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

Part 8 of the National Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panel
- Performance Review Panel

The Osteopathy Council appointed one Impaired Registrants Panel during the year.

### Impaired Registrants Panel

The Impaired Registrants Panel (IRP) deals with matters where a registered health practitioner has a physical or mental impairment that affects, or is likely to affect their capacity to practise safely.

An IRP consists of two or three people who may or may not be Council members. At least one member must be registered in the same profession as the practitioner who is subject of the complaint and at least one panel member must be a medical practitioner. Panel members are selected from a pool of people who have undergone probity checks and are experienced in working with practitioners who have health problems.

### Osteopathy Council Impaired Registrants Panel

Dr Karen Arnold	Medical Practitioner - Chair
Dr Sally Lake	Osteopathy practitioner
Dr Kerrin Murnane	Osteopathy practitioner

### 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.

#### Osteopathy Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By	Attendee Role
NRAS Conference	Ms Anne Cooper	Participant
Presentation at SCU Lismore	Ms Anne Cooper	Presenter
AHPRA Consultation forum	Ms Anne Cooper Ms Soraya Mir	Participant Participant

### Overseas Travel

The Osteopathy Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

### 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 to fund activities that assist better understanding of conduct, performance and health issues amongst practitioners and students and management of these issues.

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.

<b>Accounts Performance 2016/17</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	196,596
Operating expenditure	154,191
Gain / (loss) on disposal	-
<b>Net result</b>	<b>42,405</b>
<b>Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	<b>177,035</b>

\* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$228.

The Osteopathy Council's budget for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 is as follows.

<b>Budget 2017/18</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	200,352
Operating expenditure	181,656
<b>Net result</b>	<b>18,696</b>

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