



**Osteopathy
Council**
of NSW

Osteopathy Council of NSW

Annual Report 2018-19

JOINT ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE 15 NEW SOUTH WALES HEALTH PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PRACTICE COUNCIL [CHINESE MEDICINE COUNCIL](#)
CHIROPRACTIC COUNCIL [DENTAL COUNCIL](#) MEDICAL COUNCIL [MEDICAL RADIATION PRACTICE COUNCIL](#) NURSING
AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL [OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COUNCIL](#) OPTOMETRY COUNCIL [OSTEOPATHY COUNCIL](#)
[PARAMEDICINE COUNCIL](#) PHARMACY COUNCIL [PHYSIOTHERAPY COUNCIL](#) PODIATRY COUNCIL [PSYCHOLOGY COUNCIL](#)

President's Message



**Osteopathy
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The standards expected of registered health care professionals are high, and must be 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.

The number of new complaints this last year is comparable to 2017/18 and the vast majority have been resolved quickly.

During the year I accepted an invitation to speak to the final year osteopathy students at the Lismore campus of Southern Cross University. The aim of my visit was threefold:

- i. to describe the unique arrangements that registered NSW health care providers enjoy in relation to their regulation by the Osteopathy Council, the Osteopathy Board of Australia and AHPRA
- ii. to impress upon the students that upon attaining registration, the welfare of their patients should be their primary professional concern, and
- iii. to inform them of the professional, psychological and economic consequences that can result from a complaint.

Once again, the Council finished the year with a budget surplus, largely due to the surcharge NSW practitioners pay with their annual registration fee. Unfortunately that surcharge must remain in place as the Council seeks to achieve an acceptable equity level. The surcharge will be reviewed in 2019, as the Council is eager to see NSW practitioners paying the same fees as those in other states and territories.

In 2018 two new practitioner members joined the Osteopathy Council, Kerrin Murnane as the Deputy President, and Terry Stewart. My thanks and appreciation goes to all Council members for their work during the year.

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 members on Tribunals and Impaired Registrants Panels. Council members are forever mindful that disciplinary and remedial proceedings take time out of practice and are intellectually demanding and emotionally challenging.

The Council would like to thank the HPCA staff generally, but in particular the staff dedicated to our Council, Christine Gursen, Asha Mears and Farina Bains for their kindness, support and sound advice throughout the year.

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

2018-19 Summary

OSTEOPATHS

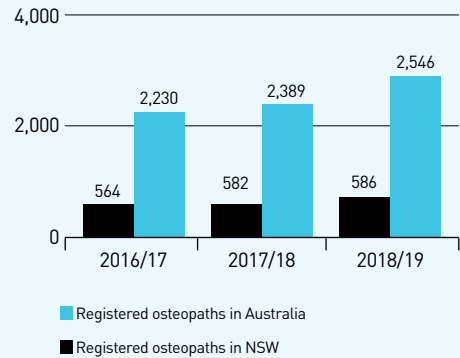


586
Registered osteopaths in NSW

23%
of Australian osteopaths practise in NSW

2%
of NSW osteopaths had complaints made about them

3 year trend in number of registered osteopaths

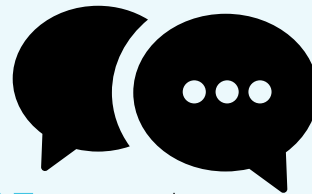


COMPLAINTS ABOUT OSTEOPATHS



4

cases were open at the beginning of the year



11

complaints were received about 10 osteopaths in 2018/19

No mandatory notifications were received



11

cases were closed during the year

Complaints were mainly from:

- Patients - **5**
- Member of the public - **2**

Complaints were mainly about:

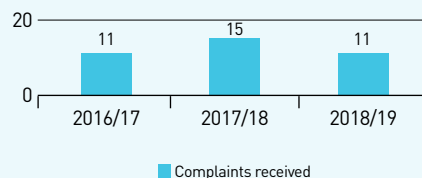
- National Law breach or offence - **3**
- Boundary violation - **2**
- Clinical care - **2**
- Documentation - **2**



4

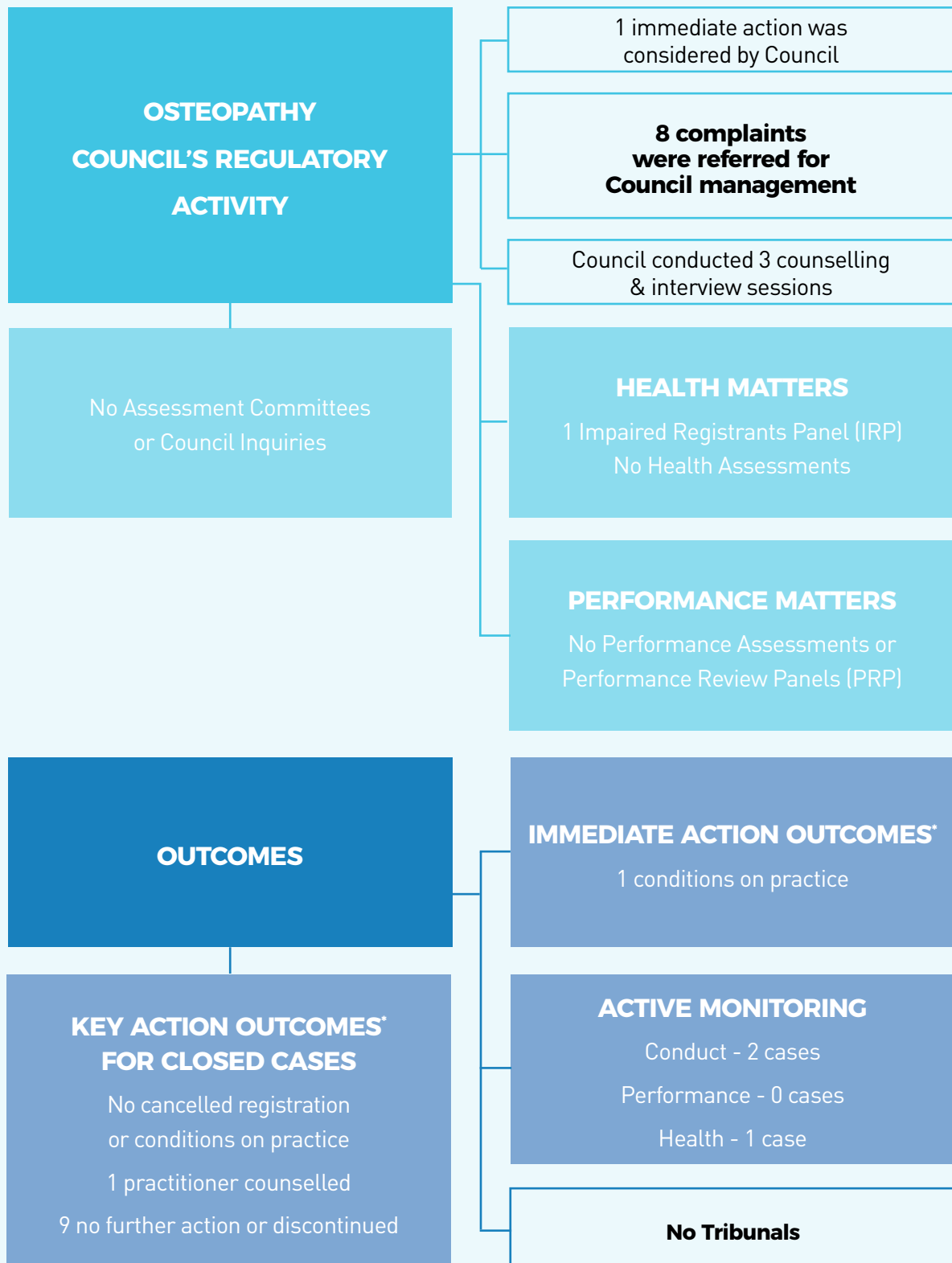
cases were open at the end of the year

3 year trend in number of complaints about osteopaths



2018-19 Summary

OSTEOPATHY COUNCIL'S REGULATORY ACTIVITY - MATTERS CONCLUDED



*Not all outcomes are included and a complaint may have more than one outcome

Council Members

Four members sit on the Osteopathy Council as set out in the National Law.

Council members are nominated by the Minister for Health and appointed by the Governor.

Registered osteopathy practitioner members:

- Ms Anne Cooper RN, DO, MMedHum
- Dr Kerrin Murnane M_Osteo (UWS), BAppSc(OsteoSt) (UWS)
- Dr Terry Stewart Grad Cert Health Fitness and Sports Training, DipHealthSc, BAppSc (Osteo), Masters Osteo, MScMed(PainMgt)

Legal member:

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

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

The Governor appointed Dr Kerrin Murnane as Deputy President of the Osteopathy Council.

Executive Officer

Ms Asha Mears is the Executive Officer for the Osteopathy Council.

The Executive Officer is part of a team of 11 led by Ms Farina Bains. This team works with 11 of the health professional Councils.

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.

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

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Date first appointed	Current Term of Office*
President Anne Cooper	11	11	1 July 2012	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021
Deputy President Kerrin Murnane	8	11	1 July 2018	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021
Soraya Mir	10	11	6 March 2013	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021
Terry Stewart	10	11	1 July 2018	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021

* 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 assist the Council to undertake its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

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

The Osteopathy Council appointed 1 Impaired Registrants Panel (IRP) during the year.

Table ii: Regulatory Committees and Panel Membership

Impaired Registrants Panel
Chair Dr Alison Reid
Council Members N/A
Non Council Members Dr Sally Lake Dr Samuel McCarthy

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 this year.

Meetings and Events

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

Table iii: Osteopathy Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By
Southern Cross University – Presentation to students on regulation in NSW	Anne Cooper – President
AHPRA – Activity Based Costing Meeting	Anne Cooper – President
NRAS Combined Meeting and Research Summit	Kerrin Murnane – Deputy President

Council Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

The Osteopathy Council website provides easy access to information about the Council and its work, publications, the complaints process and an online complaint form.

Stakeholder engagement activities included attendance at the NRAS Combined Meeting and Research Summit, and presenting to university students on health regulation in NSW and the role of the Council.

Overseas Travel

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

Remuneration

Remuneration for Council members aligns with the Public Service Commission Remuneration Framework for NSW Government Boards and Committees. Council members receive additional payment for interviews, counselling sessions, immediate action inquiries, Council Inquiries and panels. No additional payments are made for other regulatory work such as official visits, committee meetings, training, conferences or preparation for meetings.

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

Osteopathy Council member remuneration rates are as follows.

President	\$4,465 per annum
Deputy President	\$4,214 per annum
Council Members	\$3,665 per annum

Education and Research Account

The Osteopathy Council maintains an Education and Research account. This can be used to fund activities that promote better understanding of professional standards and compliance, issues that lead to complaints and how complaints are managed. The account may also be used to fund research activity including 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 2018/19	\$
Revenue	206,161
Operating expenditure	170,637
Gain / (loss) on disposal	(3)
Net result	35,521
Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	249,274

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$234.

The Osteopathy Council's budget for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 is as follows.

Budget 2019/20	\$
Revenue	210,843
Operating expenditure	214,487
Net result	(3,644)

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