

**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD**  
**OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2003**

**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD**  
**OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2003**

The Physiotherapists Registration Board is established under the provisions of the Physiotherapists Act 1950 to provide for the training, qualifications and registration of persons as physiotherapists and the practice of physiotherapy and other matters incidental to those purposes.

**1. STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD**

Section 6 of the Act provides for the Board to consist of five (5) members and the following is a list of the members of the Board and the terms under which they were appointed as at the 31st December 2003.

The Permanent Head or a legally qualified medical practitioner employed within the Public Health Department of Western Australia of the Public Service of the State nominated by the Permanent Head.	Dr. D Jones
A medical practitioner appointed by the Governor	Vacant
Two physiotherapists appointed by the Governor	Mrs. C. Blaxill Ms. K. Gibson
A person nominated by the Council of the Curtin University of Technology and approved by the Minister	Prof. A. Wright

The Members of the Board hold office for a period of three years

## 2. **MEETINGS HELD**

During the 2003 year the Board met on eight (8) occasions.

The following is a table of the attendance of the Board Members:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>
Ms. K. Gibson (Chairperson)	7
Mrs. C. Blaxill	4
Mr. D. Morphett	4
Dr. D. Jones	4
Prof A. Wright	8

The Registrar of the Board is Mr. K.I. Bradbury

The office of the Board is located at 6 Charles Street, South Perth, the hours of business are 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday, telephone number (08) 9368 2644, facsimile (08) 9368 2677, website [www.prbwa.com.au](http://www.prbwa.com.au), email [enquiries@prbwa.com](mailto:enquiries@prbwa.com).

## 3. **REGISTER**

### (a) **General Register**

Total on Register at 1st January 2003		1781
New applications	89	
Mutual Recognition	56	
Restorations	51	
	<hr/>	196
		<hr/>
		1977
Less: Removals		
- non-payment	53	
- Deceased	1	
- voluntary	75	
	<hr/>	129
		<hr/>
Total on Register at 31st December 2003		1848
		<hr/> <hr/>

**(b) Temporary Register**

Total on Register at 1 January 2003	26
New applications	24
	<hr/> 50
Less: Removals	27
Total on Register at 31st December 2003	<hr/> 23 <hr/>

**4. GENERAL**

**(a) Therapeutic Massage**

The Board continues to be concerned that medical practitioners have been issuing referrals to patients for treatment by untrained and unqualified persons who often describe themselves as “Therapeutic Masseurs” or alternatively, offer therapeutic massage services. Members of the public have also responded directly to advertisements placed by masseurs who provide these services.

The Board has previously expressed concern to the Hon. Minister for Health regarding the following:

- (1) The potential risk to the public with untrained and unqualified persons providing treatment restricted to registered physiotherapists, such as manipulative therapy.
- (2) The inappropriateness of medical practitioners providing referrals for such services, which may provide a basis for unqualified persons being recognised for the purpose of treating patients who claim reimbursement from organisations, such as insurance companies.
- (3) The increase in short term courses in “Massage”, resulting in the probability that large numbers of untrained and unqualified persons may be providing treatment restricted to registered physiotherapists.
- (4) The limitations in the existing legislation which is making it difficult for the Board to ensure that one of the objectives of the Act is met, i.e. to prevent untrained and unqualified people from practising physiotherapy.

The Board understands that its concerns will be addressed in the continuing review of the Act.

The Board has previously circularised all registered medical practitioners, drawing their attention to the Board's concerns and seeking their assistance by ensuring that referrals are provided only for treatment by suitably trained and qualified persons.

**(b) Board Policies**

The following policies have been adopted by the Board:

*i) Additional qualifications*

The following policy was adopted relating to registration of additional qualifications:

“Registered physiotherapists holding recognised postgraduate Diplomas, Masters Degrees and Doctorates in physiotherapy will be eligible to register those qualifications subject to the content of the course work and production of satisfactory documentation establishing that the holder has in fact been awarded either the postgraduate Diploma, Degree or Doctorate”.

*ii) Use of Non-physiotherapy qualifications*

The Board adopted the policy that non-physiotherapy qualifications, approved by the Board, would be permitted to be noted on stationery, providing they are stated in full and not abbreviated, to distinguish that they are not qualifications in physiotherapy.

*iii) Practice Names*

The Board adopted the following policy in relation to appropriate practice names:

“A Physiotherapy Practice name must:

- (a) include the word “physiotherapy” in the title
- (b) not be misleading or deceptive or likely to mislead or deceive
- (c) not be vulgar or sensational such as would be likely to adversely affect the standing of the physiotherapy profession
- (d) not include descriptive words such as “back”, “children” “ergonomic” and the like
- (e) not be linked to a product
- (f) not make the physiotherapists appear to have physiotherapy qualifications they do not possess”

The Board has also resolved that it will grant approval for the use of one practice name to be used at multiple locations.

iv) *Duplicate Registration Certificates*

The Board agreed that it would not be appropriate to issue duplicate registration certificates, and resolved to forward future certificates by certified mail with a return receipt, to maintain a record that certificates have been received.

v) *Acupuncture*

The Board sought legal advice on the appropriateness of physiotherapists providing acupuncture treatment as a physiotherapy modality and has adopted the policy that as the definition of “physiotherapy” in the Act states that physiotherapists can only provide external treatment, this would prohibit them from providing acupuncture as a physiotherapy modality, as it involves penetration of the body.

vi) *Criminal screening*

To assist in the protection of members of the public, the screening of criminal records will apply to:

- ... all currently registered physiotherapists
- ... physiotherapists applying for restoration to the Register
- ... new applicants for registration

(c) **Unqualified persons**

The Board has previously had communications with a number of separate groups which appear to be promoting the use of unqualified and unregistered persons to provide physiotherapy services, including the use of restricted electrophysical agents.

The Board has noted with concern the developing trend to:

- i) utilise unqualified care providers to provide physiotherapy services,
- ii) the proliferation of “courses” which will purportedly qualify the student to treat patients who have a range of “conditions”. Those students graduate from the courses with the belief that because these procedures formed part of the course curriculum they are entitled to practise those skills regardless of the restrictions contained in the Physiotherapists Act, and

- iii) the use of nurses and administrative staff to apply electrophysical agents to patients.

The provision of physiotherapy services is legally restricted to qualified persons for the simple reason that significant, potentially debilitating injuries to members of the public can occur if the provider has not been properly trained and injuries can also be sustained where electrophysical agents are used incorrectly. It is the opinion of the Board that the foregoing trends should be actively discouraged.

**(d) Board Prize**

The 2003 Physiotherapists Registration Board Prize was awarded to Miss Lisa Shircore as the most outstanding physiotherapy student throughout the Curtin University of Technology course.

**(e) Complaints and prosecutions against unregistered persons**

The Board investigated three (3) complaints concerning the alleged provision of physiotherapy treatment by unregistered persons. There was one (1) ongoing investigation against an unregistered person at 31 December 2003.

**(f) Complaints against registered physiotherapists**

Five (5) new complaints against a registered physiotherapist were received during the year, in addition to one (1) complaint that had been initiated in 2000.

In relation to three (3) complaints, the Board resolved that in each case, the practitioner concerned had either not committed a breach of the Act or that there was insufficient evidence to warrant charges being made against the physiotherapists concerned.

There were three (3) unresolved complaint as at 31 December 2003.

**(g) Ultrasound**

The Board continues to express concern regarding the activities of organisations utilising ultrasound equipment for treatment of conditions such as Cellulite. The Board has previously advised the Hon. Minister that to assist in its investigations, the Board had sought advice from other State and Territory Registration Boards, the Consumer Affairs Department and experts from Curtin University and the University of Melbourne. All advice received indicated that the use of ultrasound equipment by untrained and unqualified persons constituted a potential risk to the public.

**(h) Police Clearances**

The Board has continued with an arrangement with the Health Department of Western Australia to conduct criminal record screening of physiotherapists in accordance with its policy detailed in 4(c)(iv).

**(i) Conference attendance**

Mr. Doug Morphett and the Registrar attended an ACOPRA Inc. conference in March 2003 and participated in several teleconferences during the year.

**(j) Code of Conduct**

The Board has in place a Code of Conduct to be utilised by Members of the Board.

**(k) Marcus J Rosen Annual Scholarship**

The Board previously agreed to fund, over a period of four (4) years, a \$10,000 grant to the Marcus J Rosen Scholarship Fund. The first payment of \$2,500 was presented in May 2001, with the balance to be paid over the next (3) years.

**(l) Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907**

The Board made no expenditure in relation to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

**(m) University of Notre Dame**

Mr Doug Morphett represented the Board on the University of Notre Dame School of Physiotherapy External Advisory Committee until his retirement from the Board. Mrs Clare Blaxill replaced Mr Morphett in September 2003.

**Ms Kim Gibson**  
**CHAIRPERSON**



**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF W.A.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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**Scope**

We have audited the financial statements of the Physiotherapists Registration Board of Western Australia for the year ended 31 December 2003. The board is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accounts and the information they contain. We have performed an audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion on them to the Board.

Our audit has been planned and performed in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide a reasonable level of assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the accounts are presented fairly in accordance with the historic cost basis of accounting so as to present a view of the Board which is consistent with our understanding of its operations.

The accounts have not been prepared as a general purpose financial report in accordance with Statements of Accounting Standards.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**AUDIT OPINION**

In our opinion the financial statements of the Physiotherapists Registration Board of Western Australia present fairly the financial position at 31 December 2003 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in accordance with the basis of preparation outlined above.

We also certify that the Board complied with the provisions of the Physiotherapists Registration Act as amended.

**SHAKESPEARE PARTNERS**  
Chartered Accountants

  
**SR THOMPSON - Partner**

Dated : 15/6/04

Partners  
A Shakespeare CA  
S R Thompson CA  
L A Meyerowitz CA

**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF W.A.**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003**

	<b>31/12/03</b>	<b>31/12/02</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated Funds - Beginning of Period	193,386	150,179
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	36,490	43,207
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<u>\$229,876</u>	<u>\$193,386</u>
 Represented by:		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash Float	100	100
Other Debtors	2,790	2,579
Cash at Bank	46,292	13,542
Investment - Challenge Bank No 16-1354	131,897	125,564
Investment - Challenge Bank No 43-3513	117,659	53,297
Investment - Challenge Bank No 43-3521	-	28,869
	<u>298,738</u>	<u>223,951</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>298,738</u>	<u>223,951</u>
 <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Fees Paid in Advance	39,345	7,325
Sundry Creditors & Accrued Charges	29,517	23,240
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>68,862</u>	<u>30,565</u>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$229,876</u>	<u>\$193,386</u>

These accounts to be read in conjunction with the accountants report attached

**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF W.A.**

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003**

	31/12/03 \$	31/12/02 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Practising Fees	141,150	136,575
Registration Fees	5,650	5,550
Restoration Fees	3,235	3,520
Change of Name	385	330
Additional Qualifications	448	384
Certificates of Good Standing	180	285
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	151,048	146,644
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Audit Fees	940	800
A.C.O.P.R.A Contibution	14,994	8,560
APA - Rosen Foundation	2,500	2,500
Bank Charges	1,104	956
Board Members Fees	3,669	1,161
Board Prize	300	300
Bpay	3,188	-
Catering	600	-
Conference Expenses	4,389	1,197
Courier	-	280
Eftpos Setup Costs	195	-
Interest Paid	-	17
Legal Costs	1,717	4,411
Merchant Fees	310	-
Postage	3,092	3,401
Printing & Stationery	6,402	7,850
Research Grant	2,000	-
Secretarial & Administration Costs	79,992	81,044
Website Annual Fees	518	382
Website Design & Development	-	23
Telephone	1,174	915
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	127,084	113,797
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23,964	32,847
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Interest Received	12,325	9,916
Sundry Income	201	444
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,526	10,360
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>\$36,490</u>	<u>\$43,207</u>

These accounts to be read in conjunction with the accountants report attached