

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

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006**

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

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006**

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 2006.

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	Ms G Parry 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 2006 year the Board met on ten (10) 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)	10
Ms G. Parry.	10
Dr D. Jones	5
Prof A. Wright	10

The Registrar of the Board is Mr Kim Bradbury

The office of the Board is located at Level 2, 23 Richardson 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.au](mailto:enquiries@prbwa.com.au).

## 3. REGISTER

### (a) General Register

Total on Register at 1st January 2006		2025
New applications	143	
Mutual Recognition	53	
Transfer from Temporary	0	
Restorations	47	
		243
		<u>2268</u>
Less: Removals		
- non-payment	67	
- Deceased	0	
- voluntary	53	
- Declined by Board	1	
		121
		<u>2147</u>
Total on Register at 31st December 2006		<u><u>2147</u></u>

(b) **Temporary Register**

Total on Register at 1 January 2006		5
New applications		52
		<u>57</u>
Removals	47	
Transfer to General	<u>0</u>	<u>47</u>
Total on Register at 31st December 2006		<u>10</u>

4. **GENERAL**

(a) **Record Keeping Plan**

The Board established a record keeping plan that complied with the provisions of State Records Act 2000.

In accordance with the State Records Act 2000, the Board is required to report its compliance with the Act.

Record management training is provided to new employees of the Registrar as part of their induction program. The Registrar conducts employee information sessions on an ad hoc basis to ensure that all employees are aware of their roles and responsibilities in regards to their compliance with the Board's Record Keeping Plan.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the Board's record keeping system has been evaluated and is to be evaluated no less than every five years and the training program is reviewed as required.

(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

vii) AECOP Supervised Clinical Practice

1. Overseas-trained physiotherapists, who hold un-registerable qualifications, must be assessed by the AECOP before being eligible for registration. Refer [www.acopra.com.au](http://www.acopra.com.au)
2. Once the applicant has successfully completed the Screening Examination, the candidate can arrange for a period of supervised clinical practice.
3. At this stage, the applicant will need to make application for temporary registration with the Board for the 6-week period of supervised clinical practice.
4. The Board will require a letter from the applicant stating: **specific dates, the location and name of the registered physiotherapist who will be supervising the clinical practice.**
5. In addition, the Board requires a letter from the supervising physiotherapist acknowledging their responsibilities and the conditions of the temporary registration.
6. The temporary registration will be for the purpose of clinical practice only and will be restricted to the dates and location as requested in the written application.
7. The cost for temporary registration will be \$125.00, being registration fee of \$50.00 and the current year practicing fee of \$75.00.

viii) Conversion from Temporary to Full Registration

1. Subject to successfully completing the examinations and being awarded a final certificate by AECOP, the Final Certificate must be presented to the Board when you apply for full unconditional registration.
2. The Board will require a successful criminal record screening to comply with the full, unconditional registration requirement at this stage.
3. The registration fee would be \$50.00 and the current year practicing fee of \$75.00.

(c) 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.

**(d) 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.

(e) **Board Prize**

The 2007 Physiotherapists Registration Board Prizes were awarded to Ms Shae Seymour as the most outstanding graduate for the 2006 in the B Sc (Physiotherapy) course and Ms Gia Di Marco as the most outstanding graduate for the 2006 in the M (Physiotherapy) course at Curtin University of Technology.

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

The Board continued to investigate one (1) complaint, initiated in 2005, concerning the alleged provision of physiotherapy treatment by unregistered persons or the advertising of physiotherapy services.

There was one (1) complaint unresolved as at 31 December 2006.

(g) **Complaints against registered physiotherapists**

Three (3) new complaints against a registered physiotherapist were received during the year, in addition to two (2) complaints that were initiated in 2005.

In relation to four (4) 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 was one (1) unresolved complaint as at 31 December 2006.

(h) **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.

(i) **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).

(j) **Conference attendance**

Ms Gibson represented the Board at a meeting of Chairs and Registrars of Physiotherapy Registration Boards held in Canberra in April 2005.

(k) **Code of Conduct**

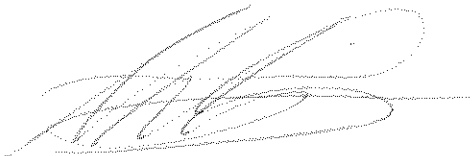
The Board has in place a Code of Conduct to be utilised by Members of the Board.

(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**

Ms Gwen Parry represented the Board on the University of Notre Dame School of Physiotherapy External Advisory Committee.



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

**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF WA**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**



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

**Scope**

We have audited the financial statements of the Physiotherapists Registration Board of Western Australia for the year ended 31 December 2005. 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 2005 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 : 24 May 2006

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF W.A.

BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

	30/12/05	31/12/04
	\$	\$
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated Funds - Beginning of Period	272,444	229,876
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	43,897	42,568
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<u>\$316,341</u>	<u>\$272,444</u>
Represented by:		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash Float	100	100
Unpresented Cheques	95	-
Other Debtors	7,176	2,435
Sundry Debtors	687	-
Cash at Bank	12,598	24,671
Investment - Challenge Bank	32,145	31,336
Investment - Challenge Bank No 16-1354	69,279	139,171
Investment - Challenge Bank No 52-3068	131,469	124,459
Investment - Challenge Bank	93,753	-
	<u>347,302</u>	<u>322,172</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>347,302</u>	<u>322,172</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Fees Paid in Advance	9,770	24,055
Sundry Creditors & Accrued Charges	21,191	25,673
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>30,961</u>	<u>49,728</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$316,341</u>	<u>\$272,444</u>

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF W.A.

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

	30/12/05	31/12/04
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Practising Fees	156,750	148,350
Registration Fees	7,900	7,050
Restoration Fees	2,080	2,500
Change of Name	255	405
Additional Qualifications	896	416
Certificates of Good Standing	240	285
	<u>168,121</u>	<u>159,006</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Audit Fees	-	1,100
A.C.O.P.R.A Contribution	6,370	6,237
Bank Charges	1,127	887
Board Members Fees	2,414	5,085
Board Prize	227	300
Bpay	-	732
Catering	-	480
Conference Expenses	2,673	2,529
Eftpos Setup Costs	-	218
General Expenses	42	-
Interest Paid	80	14
Inquiry Costs	-	11,221
Legal Costs	15,951	9,732
Merchant Fees	1,255	1,027
Postage	3,782	2,698
Printing & Stationery	6,448	6,308
Record Keeping Plan	2,198	1,800
Secretarial & Administration Costs	97,147	80,701
Website Annual Fees	1,113	735
Telephone	1,759	1,417
	<u>142,586</u>	<u>133,221</u>
	25,535	25,785
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Interest Received	17,610	16,714
Sundry Income	752	69
	<u>18,362</u>	<u>16,783</u>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>\$43,897</u>	<u>\$42,568</u>

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the attached accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of THE PHYSIOTHERAPISTS' REGISTRATION BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA at December 31st, 2006 and the result of the year ended on that date.



K I Bradbury F.C.A., B. Bus.  
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER  
PERTH WA