



**Annual  
Report  
2015-16**

**Osteopathy  
Council**  
of New South Wales

## President's message



*Osteopathy Council  
of New South Wales*

The Osteopathy Council of NSW has again had an extremely productive year, contributing to the satisfactory resolution of several complaints, investigations and NCAT (Tribunal) hearings.

The number of complaints this year has remained largely consistent with the volume over recent years, which has resulted in the Council all but finishing the year within budget.

During the year, the Council invited expressions of interest from NSW osteopaths to conduct performance assessments and serve on Tribunal hearings and regulatory committees and panels. We are grateful that we had a strong response to this campaign and we would like to thank with the greatest sincerity those members of the profession who have contributed their time, skills and wisdom to serve on those bodies. It should be noted that the purpose of any order consequent upon a finding that a complaint has been proved, is said to be protective of the interests of the public at large, but more particularly, patients or potential patients of the practitioner concerned. However, the public interests also include the standing of the profession and the maintenance of public confidence in the high standards of osteopathic practitioners.

The Council would like to thank its executive staff, Michael Jaques, Christine Gursen and Anthony Tobin for their kindness, support and sage advice throughout the year.

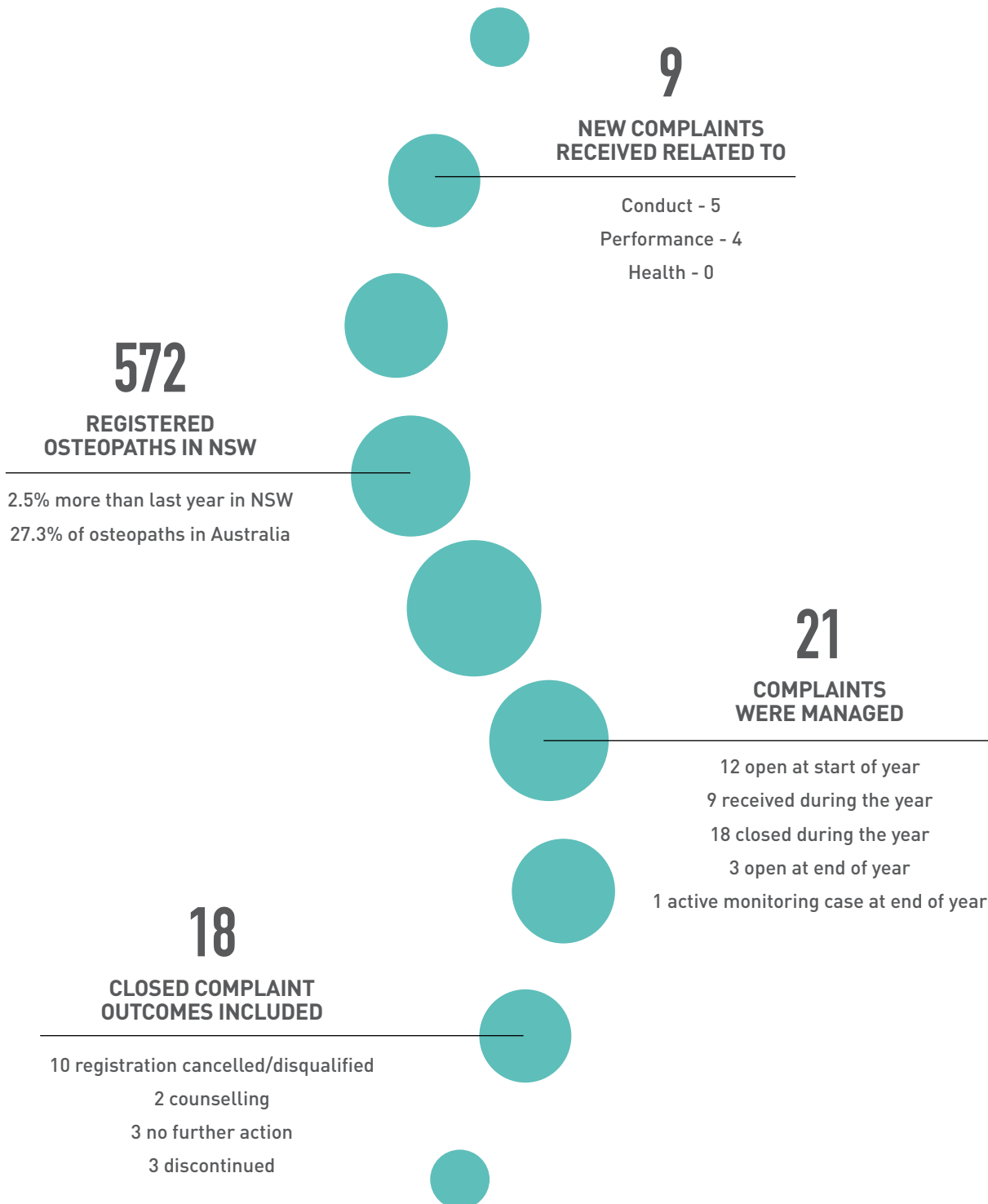
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Cooper', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Ms Anne Cooper**

President

Osteopathy Council of NSW

# Regulation of Osteopaths in 2015/16 Overview



## Regulation of Osteopaths in NSW in 2015/16

### Year in summary

As at 30 June 2016 NSW had 572 registered osteopaths representing 27.3% of the 2,094 osteopaths registered to practise in Australia. There was an increase of 2.5% on the 558 osteopaths registered in NSW last year.

During the year the Osteopathy Council of NSW managed 21 complaints including:

- 12 open matters at the start of the year
- 9 new complaints received during the year.

By year end 18 complaints had been closed and three matters remained open.

The nine new complaints received this year were about eight practitioners representing 1.4% of NSW registered osteopaths. There was one more complaint received this year compared with the eight complaints received in 2014/15.

This year there was one mandatory notification.

The Council received three complaints from patients; two from members of the public; and one each from a relative of a patient or practitioner, a government department and the Police.

Complaints received about NSW osteopaths related to:

- Conduct – 5 complaints
- Performance – 4 complaints
- Health – 0 complaints.

One offence complaint received immediate action consideration.

After Council consultations with the HCCC, three of the complaints received during the year were referred for Council management.

Four matters were referred to NCAT.

One counselling/interview session was conducted.

Outcomes for the 18 matters closed during the year were as follows.

Outcome	Number
Registration cancelled or disqualified	10
No further action	3
Discontinued	3
Counselling	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

At year end one conduct case was being actively monitored.

## Council Membership

Section 41E of the Law prescribes that there are four members of the Osteopathy Council appointed by the Governor.

Members who are registered osteopathy practitioners:

- Ms Anne Cooper RN, DO, M Med Hum - President
- Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne BSc (Hons), Osteo PG, CertEd, PGDip, HSc - Deputy President
- Mr Stuart Hammond BAppSci (Osteo), MO.

Legal member:

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

## Attendance at Council Meetings

The Osteopathy Council met on 11 occasions. Attendance at the meetings was as follows:

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend
Ms Anne Cooper	11	11
Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne	9	11
Mr Stuart Hammond	11	11
Ms Soraya Mir	11	11

## Executive Officer

The Osteopathy Council is supported by Mr Michael Jaques, Executive Officer and Ms Christine Gursen and Mr Anthony Tobin, Assistant Executive Officers, employed by the HPCA.

## Committees of Council

Section 41F of the Law provides that the Council may establish committees to assist it with the exercise of its functions. Members of committees need not be Council members. The Osteopathy Council did not appoint any committees during the reporting period.

## Regulatory Committees and Panels

Part 8 of the Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities. They include Assessment Committees, Impaired Registrants Panels and Performance Review Panels. The Osteopathy Council did not establish any of these bodies during the reporting period.

## Meetings and Conferences

The President, Ms Anne Cooper, represented the Osteopathy Council at the Council Presidents' Forum.

### Overseas Travel

There was no overseas travel during the reporting period.

### Council Communications

The Osteopathy Council website is the principal medium used for communicating information to osteopaths, osteopathy students and the community. The website is updated regularly and includes links to other key bodies in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Further information is available at [www.osteopathycouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.osteopathycouncil.nsw.gov.au).

### Remuneration

Remuneration for members of the Council was as follows:

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

In addition, Council members receive sitting fees for the conduct of Council Inquiries and for attendance at committee meetings and other regulatory activities if held on a day other than the Council meeting. Council members are reimbursed for expenses incurred when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Members of panels and tribunals also receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses.

## Financial Management

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

<b>Accounts Performance 2015/16</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	188,359
Operating expenditure	183,039
Gain/(loss) on disposal	62
<b>Net result</b>	<b>5,382</b>
<b>Net cash reserves (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	<b>124,016</b>

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

The Osteopathy Council's budget for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 is as follows.

<b>Budget 2016/17</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	197,091
Operating expenditure	199,357
<b>Net result</b>	<b>[2,266]</b>

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