

**Australasian Lymphology Association & Osteopathy Australia
Joint Statement regarding the
ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner
Issued by Osteopathy Australia on 11 January 2019**

In November, Antony Nicholas and Peter Lalli from Osteopathy Australia met with Leonie Naumann and Jacquie Martin of the Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) to discuss the issue of acceptance of our members on the National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR).

The group discussed the outcomes of an external review of the NLPR, the ALA's lymphoedema practitioner accreditation program including the issue raised by Osteopathy Australia about the acceptance of professions including Osteopaths. As a result of this review, the ALA was delighted to advise that the ALA Board had elected to make a number of updates to the NLPR in the coming 14 months. One of these updates will impact Osteopaths with an interest in treating people living with lymphoedema.

During the meeting ALA President, Leonie Naumann indicated that, *'the range of professions that are eligible for accreditation will be expanded and Osteopaths who have completed a recognised training course as well as meeting other criteria will soon be able to apply to become an ALA Accredited Practitioner, receive the ALA tick of approval and they may also choose to have their name and practice included on the publicly available NLPR Find a Practitioner list.'*

Leonie also indicated that, *'following on from the ALA member briefing that was held two weeks ago, the NLPR will now be streamlined over the coming 14 months with a focus on: updating the ALA's constitution; re-writing the NLPR Guidelines; eliminating the Category one and Category two distinctions; developing lymphoedema practitioner competencies and implementing the yet-to-be-workshopped title, similar to ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner (Physiotherapist) or ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner (Osteopath).'*

Osteopathy Australia welcomes the proposed updates to the ALA's Accredited Practitioner program and we look forward to our members becoming accredited and appearing on the NLPR, in the future. CEO, Antony Nicholas said, *'potential changes to course eligibility, over time, allowing osteopaths to participate will be welcomed by many osteopaths and we are aware courses such as Macquarie University' ALERT program is already accepting osteopaths'*. Osteopathy Australia encourages its members with an interest in treating people living with lymphoedema to keep informed on these changes and the potential of becoming an ALA member in 2019 in order to prepare for acceptance of Osteopaths onto the NLPR commencing 1 January 2020.