



## **FOURTH MEETING OF THE PSYCHOLOGY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA 18 DECEMBER 2009**

The fourth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia was held on 18 December 2009 in Melbourne. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

The Board noted progress with implementation of the new national scheme. The Board is making good progress against its work plan.

As in previous meetings, in its fourth meeting the Board continued work to prepare for the scheme's commencement on 1 July 2010. Work on the Board's budget for 2010 – 2011 is progressing. The budget will be finalised after the registration migration process that will confirm final registrant numbers, and due diligence processes that will confirm reserves to be transferred from existing State and Territory boards.

The Board was pleased to receive 120 submissions on its consultation paper, and thanks stakeholders for their interest and valuable contributions. The submissions are available on the Board's website (except for those submissions marked confidential).

Over the past month an intensive analysis of the 120 submissions has occurred. The majority of submissions were from individual psychologists (64.7%), followed by Psychology professional organisations (13.4%), the Education sector (6.7%), Government agencies (4.2%), Psychologist registration boards (4.2%), and others (6%).

The areas that attracted the majority of comments concerned the Board's proposal for specialist registration at the doctorate level, the mandatory continuous professional development proposals, and the proposals to phase out the 4+2 pathway to general registration. Feedback in general balanced strong support for the Board proposals, with concerns about workforce supply and provision of adequate numbers of university training places. Another common theme was the expressed need for flexibility in implementing proposals across different areas of psychology work, and across metropolitan and rural areas of Australia. Members of the Board consulted various stakeholders over this period to help inform their views, including individuals, organisations, educational and regulatory agencies. A national consultation forum on the consultation paper provided further opportunity to hear the views of interested parties.

The Board reviewed all of this feedback at the meeting and finalised its proposals for Ministerial Council taking the submissions into account. The final proposals will be on the Board's website by 24 December 2009. The Ministerial Council is expected to consider the proposals in early 2010, to enable the Board's standards and other requirements to be available well before commencement day on 1 July 2010.

The Board considered draft guidelines on mandatory notifications, which explain the requirements under the national law for health practitioners, employers and education providers to make compulsory notifications about health practitioners in certain circumstances. The Board also considered draft guidelines on the advertising of services provided by registered practitioners. The Board agreed to a process to further develop this work over January and February 2010, with a view to releasing draft guidelines for public consultation on 5 March 2010. In addition, the Board received an update on a project considering restriction of

psychological testing, which is also being prepared for public consultation. The Board considered additional codes and guidelines required for the psychology profession, with drafts to be considered at its February 2010 meeting. The Board will do further work on these guidelines during January and February 2010 before releasing proposed guidelines for public consultation on 5 March 2010.

The Board considered student registration, and agreed that the Board will not be proceeding with arrangements for registration of students since those undertaking clinical training in psychology will be required to hold provisional registration rather than student registration.

The Board once again acknowledged the continuing efforts of existing State and Territory boards in preparing for implementation of the National Scheme, as well as accrediting bodies, AHPRA and the National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project team. The Board looks forward to continued joint effort in coming months. The Board recognized the particular contribution of Dr Louise Morauta who is retiring from her role as Director of the National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project Team, and thanked her for her exceptional work in leading implementation of this project.

Brin Grenyer  
Chair, Psychology Board of Australia

24 December 2009