

Media release

November 2011

First national psychology data released

The first ever national data on psychology regulation is now available with the release of Psychology Board of Australia information in the AHPRA and National Boards' annual report

Most of Australia's registered psychologists are women, the largest group of practitioners are aged between 30 and 34 years and nearly 22% have an area of practice endorsement that recognises additional qualifications. These and other insights to the profession are now available in the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and National Boards' annual report.

The release of the 2010-11 annual report gives an essential, first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners across 10 professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). One in 44 Australians is a registered health practitioner.

As well as profiling the professions and practitioners, the report provides national data on notifications (complaints) involving health practitioners and the actions taken by national boards to protect public safety.

Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia, Professor Brin Grenyer, said the 2010-11 annual report demonstrated transparent and accountable reporting by AHPRA and the National Board about their work in regulating the profession and protecting the public.

"The introduction of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010 represents an unparalleled reform of health practitioner regulation. This annual report provides comprehensive data about the first year of operation of the national scheme, across all areas of operation of AHPRA and the national boards," Professor Grenyer said.

"There is clear evidence that the national scheme is sound, robust and a great asset for the Australian community," he said.

Important information about the psychology profession published in the report includes:

- There were 29,142 psychologists registered to practise in Australia on 30 June 2011, making it the third largest regulated profession
- About 34% of psychologists are based in New South Wales and 27% are based in Victoria
- There are 4,284 psychologists with provisional registration (psychologists in their 5th or 6th year of training in supervised internships at workplaces or organised by universities)
- There is a reasonably even distribution of practitioners across age groups in the profession, with about 4,000 practitioners aged under 30 and 565 aged over 70
- Nearly 78% of practitioners are female

- There are 6,391 psychologists in Australia who have one or more area of practice endorsements on their registration
- There were 390 notifications lodged about registered psychologists during the year (not including concerns about advertising), representing notifications about 1.2% of all registered psychologists
- The Psychology Board of Australia and the Psychology Council in NSW* took immediate action on the registration of 12 practitioners during the year, as a result imposing conditions on the registration of three practitioners, taking no further action on the registration of one practitioner, accepting an undertaking from another, and suspending the registration of seven practitioners
- There were nine mandatory notifications made about registered psychologists during the year

The annual report is an important source of information about the Board's activities in 2010-11. Achievements for the Psychology Board of Australia during the year included; a focus on promoting the profession's understanding of the requirements of the National Scheme and awareness of the Board's registration standards for continuing professional development, recency of practice, professional indemnity insurance, English language skills and criminal history; the addition of health and community psychology area of practice endorsement; holding stakeholder forums in every jurisdiction; consulting widely on a range of guidelines and codes, including an extended consultation on guidelines for area of practice endorsement to ensure the policy balance was appropriate; developing range of new policies; waiving the registration fee for provisional psychologists; and working constructively with a range of stakeholders including the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council.

Professor Grenyer encouraged psychology practitioners, clients, employers, educators and the Australian community to read the 2010-11 annual report, published at www.ahpra.gov.au under *Legislation and publications > AHPRA publications*.

More information about the National Scheme

More summaries of annual report data are published on the AHPRA website:

- [registrations](#)
- [criminal records checks](#)
- [notifications](#)
- [state and territory roundup: breakdown by profession and](#)
- [national information about other regulated health practitioner professions.](#)

For more information

- Refer to the AHPRA Annual Report
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

**AHPRA and the National Boards are responsible for the management of notifications against practitioners across Australia, except in NSW, where the Health Professional Councils, supported by the Health Professions Council Authority (HPCA), are responsible.*