



# Communiqué

**28 February 2013**

The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). This communiqué highlights key issues from the 38th meeting of the Board on 28 February 2013. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

## Consultation

The Board has recently undertaken preliminary consultation on:

- draft *Guideline for 5+1 internship programs*, and
- draft *Guideline for the national psychology examination*.

During this preliminary consultation the Board released the paper to key stakeholders, which allows it to 'road test' the feasibility of proposed changes as well as consider feedback that may be incorporated for the public consultations.

At this meeting, the Board reviewed the preliminary feedback on both papers and will proceed with public consultations in the coming months. All public consultation papers are published on the Board's website and there is usually a six-week timeframe for interested parties to provide submissions.

## Supervisor training project

The publication of the *Guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers* and the introduction of new supervisor training programs is a priority project for the Board in 2013. Additional resources have been added to the Board support team in the National AHRPA office to progress this work.

The Board has approved the final draft of the new *Guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers* and the guideline is now being prepared for publication. The Supervisor Training Working Party of the Board is developing an expression of interest process for providers of supervisor training programs. More information will be available in the March communiqué.

## Review of standards, guidelines and codes

The Board continues to review the registration standards, guidelines and codes that were developed before the National Scheme commenced. At the February meeting, along with the other National Boards, the Board agreed to release a number of registration standards, codes and guidelines for consultation, as follows.

Public consultation:

- revised *Guideline for advertising*
- endorsement of the *Code of ethics*
- revised *Guideline for mandatory notification*, and
- draft *Social media policy*.

The Board invites all interested practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback to the consultations. For details on when these consultations will open, please check the Board's website and future communiqués.

Preliminary consultation:

- *English language skills registration standard*, and
- *Criminal history registration standard*.

These consultations will be released for public consultation later in the year, and will be widely communicated.

In addition to the documents listed above, the Board must also review its Board specific registration standards, codes and guidelines (that were approved in 2010). The Board specific consultations will commence with preliminary consultation in April 2013 and public consultation later in the year.

### **AHPRA consultation on data access and research**

AHPRA is seeking feedback on its proposed [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme data access and research policy](#). The policy establishes a consistent approach for data access and research requests across AHPRA and the National Boards. This consultation closes on 5 April 2013.

### **Statistics**

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. The data includes information about types of registration held, principal place of practice, endorsements, registrant age and gender. Read the latest report and other statistics on our [statistics web page](#)

### **Accreditation matters**

#### **Assignment of accreditation function for the psychology profession**

The National Law requires National Boards to review the arrangements for the exercise of the accreditation functions no later than 30 June 2013. These arrangements have been in place since before the commencement of the National Law and involve the appointment of the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) by Health Ministers to exercise accreditation functions from 1 July 2010 until 30 June 2013.

In 2012, the Board undertook a review of accreditation arrangements for psychology including wide-ranging public consultation. Based on the feedback it received, the Board decided to continue the current arrangement of exercising accreditation functions through APAC beyond the period assigned by Ministerial Council for a period of one year to 30 June 2014. This limited extension was to allow APAC's sole member (the Australian Psychological Society) to make the recommended changes to APAC's constitution to address the governance and independence issues raised by stakeholders during consultation. To support the satisfactory resolution of these governance issues, the Board has commenced an active series of discussions with the APS and APAC.

#### **Approval of accredited programs**

Under section 49 of the National Law, the National Board requires accreditation reports from APAC before it can approve the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. At this meeting the Board approved APAC-accredited courses from:

- Bond University
- University of Queensland
- CQ University
- University of Wollongong
- University of Western Sydney
- Australian Institute of Psychology (AIP)
- Australian College of Applied Psychology (ACAP)
- Swinburne University of Technology
- Swinburne Online
- Charles Sturt University, and
- Murdoch University

The updated list of Board-approved qualifications will be published soon on the Board's website at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx). An online search for approved psychology courses is currently being developed and will be publicly available soon.

## Board work planning for 2013-14

The Board held its annual planning day in February in conjunction with the February meeting. In addition to performing the functions of a National Board under the National Law, the Board has identified a number of priorities and over the coming months will develop a workplan for 2013-14. Elements of the workplan will be published on the website as part of the next Health Profession Agreement between AHPRA and the National Board.

## Newsletter

The Board's Newsletters, *Connections*, have been published on the Board's website since December 2010. During 2011 and 2012, the newsletter was circulated as an e-newsletter to all registrants for whom the Board had email addresses in addition to being published on the website. Issue 7 of *Connections* is currently under development and will be distributed via email in April. The Board will also publish the newsletter on its website. The Board encourages all registrants to read this newsletter, and familiarise themselves with the work of the Board.

## Stakeholder meetings

Members of the Board will continue to meet with local registrants and stakeholders, and conducting presentations on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme at public meetings and universities during 2013. The Board looks forward to continuing to work with its State and Territory Regional Boards, their committees, and with stakeholders to progress regulation of the psychology profession in the interests of the public and to high international standards in 2013.

## Joint Meeting

On 1 March 2013, the Board held a joint meeting with the Board of the Australian Psychological Society (APS). This meeting presented a valuable opportunity to meet and share views on a range of priority issues including: the learning's from joint CPD processes, alignment of Area of Practice Endorsements and the APS Colleges through the transition phase, and experiences in using the APS Code of Ethics and Guidelines in the regulation system.

## Brisbane Forum

The Board is planning its next Forum in Brisbane on the evening of Thursday 21 March 2013. It is essential to RSVP to attend this event and due to space limitations there may be a waiting list and only those with a confirmed RSVP will be admitted.

**DATE:** Thursday 21 March 2013

**TIME:** 5:00 -7:00pm

**VENUE:** Lincoln / Roosevelt Rooms  
The Pullman King George Square  
Cnr Ann & Roma Streets, Brisbane

**RSVP:** 15 March 2013  
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