



Communiqué

14 December 2012

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 37th meeting of the Board on 14 December 2012. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Last chance to renew registration – late period ends 31 December 2012

About 26,000 psychologists across Australia were due to renew their registration by 30 November 2012.

Psychologists who did not remember to renew and who want to continue to be registered can still lodge their renewal during the late period until 31 December 2012. Renewal applications lodged during this period incur a [late fee](#).

The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is to use the secure online renewal service. Simply visit the website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au and use your User ID to log in to online renewal. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

Under the National Law, psychologists who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners (i.e. after 31 December 2012). Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise their profession in Australia until a new application is approved. Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this.

Psychologists who do not renew their registration by 30 November 2012, or within the following one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. These practitioners should note that they are not able to practise their profession until their fast-track registration application has been processed and approved.

Psychologists can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Renewal Received Confirmation](#). Individuals whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

Provisional registration

Applications for provisional registration after three years of provisional registration

Under section 64(3) of the National Law provisional registration may not be renewed more than twice.

Therefore provisional psychologists who have already renewed twice since the beginning of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (in 2010 and 2011) must make a new application for registration.

A streamlined application form for this process has been sent to provisional psychologists who have a registration expiry date of 31 December 2012 and have already renewed twice under the National Scheme. Provisional psychologists with expiry dates in January and February 2013 will receive advice from AHPRA soon. The form can also be obtained from the Board's website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Forms.aspx under Provisional registration and supervision forms. Provisional psychologists are welcome to download the form submit their application early if they wish, prior to receipt of a letter from AHPRA.

Higher degree students

Higher degree psychology candidates and universities are reminded of the requirement for students to register as provisional psychologists prior to commencing their course and to remain registered for the duration of the degree, including the thesis. Universities must ensure their students are appropriately registered and to provide information on current enrolments to AHPRA.

The applications form for provisional registration and information for higher degree candidates is available on the website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Provisional/Higher-Degree.aspx.

Policy update

Policy for unsatisfactory progress in the 4+2 internship program

The Board reviewed the *Policy for unsatisfactory progress in the 4+2 internship program* and agreed to remove the pass/fail requirements regarding case examples submitted as part of progress reports. AHPRA staff will continue to provide feedback to provisional psychologists undertaking the 4+2 internship program in regard to their case examples but will not assess individual case examples as passed or failed.

The revised policy will be published on the Board's website soon.

Appointments to the National Psychology Examination Committee

The terms of appointment for the inaugural members of the National Psychology Examination Committee concluded in November 2012 and as the work to implement a National Psychology Examination is continuing, a new Committee has been appointed.

The Committee consists of nine members of the profession and includes members of the Psychology Board of Australia and members appointed through this expression of interest.

The Board advertised for expressions of interest in November 2012 and the expressions of interest were considered by the Board at the December meeting. The Board has appointed the following nine members for a period of two years commencing in February 2013:

Gerard Fogarty
Brin Grenyer (Chair)
Justin Kenardy
Colby Pearce
Rachel Phillips
Robert Schweitzer
Alison Soutter
Janet Stephenson
Radek Stratil

The appointments include some continuing members and some new members resulting in a desirable balance of experience and renewal. The Board was impressed by the high standard of applicants and wishes to thank all those who applied.

The National Psychology Exam Committee will meet regularly in 2013 to discuss the following:

- the curriculum and format for the exam
- required readings for the exam
- development of exam questions, and
- working with AHPRA on the implementation plan and set up for the national psychology exam.

Successful tender for the National Psychology Exam

The Board, in conjunction with AHPRA, is currently developing a national psychology examination which is intended to be implemented from 1 July 2013. The exam will support applications for general registration and provide a nationally consistent entry level standard of applied knowledge. The exam will

give the public an increased level of confidence in the profession and that all registered psychologists are suitably trained and qualified.

Due to the technical nature of the examination, a select group of providers was invited to tender for the delivery of the examination across all States and Territories, all of whom are proven and experienced with the provision of computer-based testing platforms.

The Board has now considered all the tenders and is pleased to announce that the tender to provide the computer based assessment has been awarded to Kryterion. The implementation phase will commence in January 2013 and the examination will be available from June 2013.

The introduction of the national examination is a positive move for the profession and both the Board and AHPRA are working hard to ensure the examination - including the delivery - is of the highest quality possible.

Consultation update

Upcoming consultation for the national psychology exam

The Board has previously released two consultation papers on the National Psychology Examination seeking input regarding proposals for the curriculum and readings. These and other information about the exam can be found on the Board's website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/National-Psychology-Exam.aspx.

The Board has now commenced preliminary consultation on the final draft of the *Guideline for the National Psychology Examination* and plans to release a public consultation paper in early 2013. This final consultation before implementation of the examination from 1 July 2013 will include proposals for the practical implementation of the exam including information about the rules and policies relating to the exam, and transitional arrangements.

Review of accreditation arrangements for the psychology profession

Under the National Law the accreditation authority appointed by Health Ministers for the psychology profession is the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). The National Law requires the 10 National Boards that joined the National Scheme in 2010 to review the arrangements for the exercise of the accreditation functions no later than 30 June 2013.

The Board undertook a public consultation on this matter which closed on 2 November 2012 and the submission are now available on the website www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx.

Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program

The Board is continuing to work on developing the draft *Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program*, with a public consultation scheduled for early 2013.

The Board has agreed that provisional psychologists wishing to commence the sixth year internship prior to the new guidelines being finalised are permitted to apply to commence the sixth year internship in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Provisional registration standard* using the current supervised practice plan form – SPPR-10.

Sixth year interns may also use the *Guidelines for 4+2 internship program: provisional psychologists and supervisors* for additional guidance on the requirements of the program until the 5+1 internship guideline becomes available. Further information on transition provisions is available in the fact sheet [Transition provisions for 5+1 internship program](#).

Review of standards and guidelines

The Psychology Board and the other National Boards that have been part of the National Scheme since 2010 have agreed to review registration standards and guidelines at least every three years; therefore review of many of the Board's standards and guidelines is due to commence by 30 June 2013.

The National Boards have commenced preparations for the reviews including commissioning research into the requirements for CPD, recency of practice and English language skills.

Practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders will be able to provide feedback during the public consultation phases of the reviews in 2013. Where registration standards, guidelines and codes are common to all, or most, of the National Boards, the consultation phase will be coordinated across National Boards to make providing feedback easier.

Consultation will occur over several stages, starting in 2013. The consultations are being staged (rather than happening simultaneously) to give stakeholders a better opportunity to provide feedback. Information about the reviews will be included in forthcoming communiqués and on the website as they commence.

The first of these public consultation papers is a combined consultation for the *Guidelines for advertising*, the new *Social media policy*, the *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*, and endorsement of the APS *Code of Ethics*. Preliminary consultation has now commenced and a public consultation is scheduled for early 2013.

New consultation papers will be published on the website www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx and notice of new consultations published in the Board's communiqué.

Guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training programs

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 is now working on developing an Expressions of Interest process for providers of supervisor training programs and more information will be available in 2013.

Statistics

The Board has published its December 2012 statistics on area of practice endorsements. For more information please visit www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/2012-12-14-Statistics-released.aspx.

Accreditation matters

Assignment of accreditation function for the psychology profession

The Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) was assigned the role of accreditation authority for the psychology profession by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council prior to the commencement of the National Scheme for an initial period of three years.

Following a review including wide-ranging public consultation, the Board has decided to continue this assignment to APAC for a period of 1 year from 1 July 2013. This may be extended pending resolution of the governance issues identified by APAC in its submission to the PsyBA. The majority of stakeholders were also strongly in agreement with the Board's intention to offer this limited one-year re-assignment to APAC. The PsyBA is acutely aware of the importance of these issues and has an active approach to progress this matter.

In making the assignment, the Board is conscious of the need to balance the need for flexibility and responsiveness to developments such as the review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme with the need for certainty and continuity for education providers and to enable effective planning and efficient management by the Council. The Board will build in appropriate flexibility into its future arrangements with the Council and will also establish an agreed program of work and key issues to be addressed during the period of the assignment. The Council will continue to provide the Board with regular reports (in addition to reports on accredited programs) on its activities and governance structures in line with the Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function.

Approval of accredited programs

Under section 49 of the National Law, the National Board requires accreditation reports from the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (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 the APAC accreditation of courses from:

- Australian National University
- Edith Cowan University
- Macquarie University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- University of Ballarat
- University of New England
- University of South Australia
- RMIT University
- University of Western Australia

The updated list of Board-approved qualifications will be published soon on the Board's website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx.

An online search for approved psychology courses is currently being developed and will be publicly available soon.

Stakeholder meetings

Members of the National Board and AHPRA continue to be very active in meeting with local registrants and stakeholders and presenting at public meetings and universities.

The Board and representatives of the Board have recently had ongoing conversations with various universities and students, health and education departments, and at psychology professional society meetings.

Recent stakeholder events included community engagement forums in Adelaide, Hobart and Canberra hosted by AHPRA in partnership with the Consumer Health Forum of Australia.

In March 2013 there will be a Psychology Board of Australia public forum held in Brisbane for psychologists and stakeholders. Information about the forum will be published on the website closer to that time.

Community Reference Group

AHPRA is establishing a Community Reference Group on behalf of all National Boards in the National Scheme. The Community Reference Group will consist of ten members from the community who will provide input and advice on how AHPRA and the National Boards can engage the community more effectively. More information on how to apply to become a member will be available on the AHPRA website in coming weeks, with applications expected to close at the end of January.

Holiday period

AHPRA state and territory offices will remain open throughout the holiday period excluding public holidays and contact details are published on the website www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Contact-Us.aspx.

The National secretariat will be closed from Friday 21 December 2012 until Wednesday 2 January 2013 and there will be no meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia in January 2013; the Board will hold its first meeting of 2013 and planning meeting on 28 February 2013.

The Board would like to express its appreciation to AHPRA the members of regional psychology boards for their fantastic work and achievements in 2012 and wish all registrants and stakeholders a happy and safe Christmas and new year.

Professor Brin Grenyer

Chair

Psychology Board of Australia

21 December 2012