

Media release

21 December 2010

Australia's psychology workforce profiled

The Psychology Board of Australia has today released national registration data that profiles in detail Australia's psychology workforce.

On 1 July 2010, a national registration and accreditation scheme (the National Scheme) was introduced. The National Scheme became truly national in October 2010 when Western Australia joined. It is governed by nationally-consistent legislation, the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

Under the National Scheme, most health practitioners in the 10 registered professions can register once and practise across Australia. There have also been nationally-consistent types of registration across state and territory boundaries.

The National Scheme provides more comprehensive data about the composition of each profession than was ever possible when health practitioner registration and legislation varied between states.

"This is the first time accurate, national registration data has been available and the Board is pleased to share this information with the profession and the public," Psychology Board of Australia Chair, Professor Brin Grenyer said.

"Psychology is now the third largest registered health profession, after nursing and midwifery and medicine, with a total of 28,881 registrants," he said.

Highlights include:

- there are nearly 29,000 registered psychologists in Australia, with roughly 33% of the profession in New South Wales, 25% in Victoria, 20% in Queensland and the remaining spread across other states and territories
- close to 85% of the profession has general registration, while 15% has provisional registration and fewer than 0.5% has opted for non-practising registration
- nearly 50% of the profession is aged 40 or under while there are 10 registered psychologists aged between 86 and 90 years
- 77% of the profession is female
- about 20% of the profession has an Area of Practice Endorsement, with nearly 4,000 endorsed for clinical psychology

Professor Grenyer said the Register of practitioners was dynamic and changed regularly to reflect registration renewals, movements of practitioners in and out of the workforce and the progression of provisional psychologists towards general registration.

The Board is committed to regularly publishing snapshots from the Register, profiling the profession in Australia. Detailed data from the Register as at 31 October is published on the [Board's website](#).

AHPRA Acting CEO, Chris Robertson, said data about other professions would also be released from early 2011, after the bulk registration renewal of half of Australia's nurses and midwives, the close of the registration renewal period for many of the other professions and the finalisation of the specialist register for medicine.

For more information

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