



## Communiqué

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**30 October 2015**

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). At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 68<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board on 30 October 2015.

### **Revised CPD standard for psychologists will come into effect on 1 December 2015**

The Board has published the revised continuing professional development (CPD) standard, which will come into effect on 1 December 2015.

The revised CPD standard will replace the current standard and will apply to all 26,843 registered general psychologists in Australia. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standard in the next registration renewal period from 1 December 2015 to 30 November 2016.

The revised standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015 and was part of a scheduled review of standards. A public consultation was held as part of the review. National Boards published consultation reports providing a summary of the consultation processes, rationale for any changes and proposed way forward, including areas where further work is planned. The submissions to the public consultation are published on the [past consultations page](#) of the Board's website.

The revised CPD standard will introduce fairer provisions for pro-rata CPD requirements and CPD exemptions. It will also introduce a new requirement to maintain the CPD portfolio for five years in case of audit. The revised standard also clarifies the current requirements and improves the wording and structure of the document to make it easier to understand.

There are no major changes to the CPD requirements and most psychologists will find that the changes do not have a significant effect on how they plan, complete and record their CPD.

In February 2016, the Board will be publishing a revised recency of practice registration standard. The revised standard will take effect on 1 December 2016 to allow psychologists time to become familiar with the requirements.

### **2014/15 National Scheme annual report**

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their 2014/15 annual report on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The annual report provides a national snapshot of the work and finances of the National Scheme and is tabled in the parliaments of each state and territory and the Commonwealth.

For the psychology profession, the report reveals that:

- 32,766 practitioners were registered at the end of June 2015, an increase of 3.3 per cent from the previous year

- 276 notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about psychologists (excluding NSW where there is a co-regulatory system)<sup>1</sup>
- 313 notifications about psychologists were closed by 30 June 2015
- of the 313 cases closed under the National Scheme, the Psychology Board of Australia determined:
  - to take no further action or that the case was to be handled by the relevant health complaints entity in the relevant state or territory in 207 cases
  - that conditions be imposed on a practitioner's registration in 40 cases
  - in 40 cases cautions would be issued, and
  - 11 cases resulted in cancellation or suspension of a practitioner's registration.

The annual report is published at [www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015). It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Psychology Board of Australia. A media release about the report – with data across professions and jurisdictions – is published on the [AHPRA website](#). A report, which presents the data specific to psychology practice, will be published on the Board's website before the end of the calendar year.

### **Call for applications for appointment to the NT / SA / WA Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia**

Applications are sought from psychologists who reside and practice in the Northern Territory to fill vacancies on the NT / SA / WA Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia.

State, territory and regional boards exercise their functions in the jurisdiction to provide an effective and timely local response to health practitioners and other persons.

More information about the role and the application process is provided on the Board's [website](#).

For enquiries, email [statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au)

Applications close Monday, 7 December 2015.

### **Health profession agreement**

The Board and AHPRA have published the [2015/16 health profession agreement](#) (HPA) that outlines the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide to the Board in 2015/16. The HPA also provides information about the Board's financial operations and fees.

### **Reminder: renewal of registration for 2015/16**

The Board encourages psychologists to renew their registration with the Board by 30 November. The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is online. Psychologists who are due to renew their general or non-practising registration with the Board by 30 November can apply online.

Renewal applications received during December will incur a late payment fee. Under the National Law, practitioners who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of Psychologists. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise psychology in Australia. A fast track application can be made, but only during January. The practitioner cannot practise until the application is processed and the national register is updated.

Useful information for psychologists is on the Board's website:

- [Registration standards](#)
- [Registration renewal](#)
- [Renewal FAQ](#)

Professor Brin Grenyer

**Chair**

**Psychology Board of Australia**

6 November 2015