



# Communiqué

24 February 2012

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 24 February 2012. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

## Supervisor List now on website

The Psychology Board of Australia has published a supervisor list on its website, which is searchable by both location and category. The approved supervisor list will be particularly useful for psychologists and provisional psychologists who need to make supervision arrangements. This includes provisional psychologists undertaking the 4+2 and 5+1 internship programs, those who are in higher degree programs and who are working in addition to higher degree placements. The supervisor list also includes information about supervisors who have an area of practice endorsement and can provide supervision to psychologists undertaking the Registrar program.

The list includes psychologists who were approved as supervisors by a state or territory board before transitioning to the National Scheme and psychologists who have applied and been approved by the National Board as a supervisor after 1 July 2010. The list is published on the Board's website at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Supervision.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Supervision.aspx) and is accessible by practitioners and the public.

## Policy Matters

In addition to developing registration standards, codes and guidelines, the Board develops policies that support the implementation of the codes and guidelines. The Board has developed a number of policies that have been published on its website at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx). Most recently the Board has published a policy on: *The management of notifications concerning single court appointed expert psychologists in family court proceedings: Interim Policy*.

Psychologists working in the area of Family Law have a disproportionate number of notifications made against them to the Psychology Board of Australia. Some of these notifications are from litigants who make a notification in the context of court proceedings.

The Board has developed an interim policy to guide committees of the Board and AHPRA about managing notifications received about single court appointed experts. The Policy identifies the functions which the Board is required to exercise when it receives a notification and when the Board has discretion to defer dealing with a matter until the conclusion of Family Court proceedings.

## Consultation papers

Consultation is an important part of the Board's engagement with psychologists and members of the public. The feedback provided is greatly valued, and informs the Board's development of registration standards, codes and guidelines.

*Consultation Paper 12: Exposure Draft of the Guidelines for Supervisors and Supervisor Training Providers*

The submissions to the recently closed Consultation Paper 12 have been published on the Board's website at: <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx>.

Psychologists and community members are encouraged to read the submissions. The Board is currently reviewing and analysing the large number of submissions. The Board will consider the feedback received from the consultation, and amend the draft guidelines as appropriate. The Board will publish the guidelines when they have been finalised.

#### *Consultation Paper 13: Exposure Draft of the National Psychology Examination Curriculum*

The submissions to the recently closed Consultation Paper 13 have been published on the Board's website at: <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx>.

Psychologists and community members are encouraged to read the submissions, which the Psychology Board is currently reviewing and analysing. The Board will take into account the feedback received from the consultation, and refer any recommendations to the National Psychology Exam Panel for consideration.

#### *Review of the Guidelines for 4+2 internship program: Provisional psychologists and supervisors*

The Board reviews its Codes and Guidelines and policy documents at least every three years. As noted in the September 2011 Communiqué and in the last edition of the Board's newsletter, *Psychology Connections*, the Board is preparing to evaluate the *Guidelines for 4+2 internship program: provisional psychologists and supervisors* for the three year review in 2013. Thank you to stakeholders who responded to the request for feedback about the 4+2 program. The Board is currently reviewing the feedback to determine the focus of the review. The Board plans to develop a consultation paper with proposed changes to the *Guidelines for 4+2 internship program*.

#### **Accreditation matters**

Under section 49 of the National Law, the Psychology Board of Australia 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. The Board approved the *full* accreditation of courses at James Cook University and the University of Tasmania. The Board approved the accreditation (*with conditions*) of courses at Macquarie University, Monash University (Sunway Campus Malaysia), and the University of Tasmania. These courses will be added to the list of Board-approved courses that is published on the Board's website.

#### **Psychology Board of Australia website**

The Board continues to publish important information on its website. Psychologists are encouraged to access the website regularly to keep up to date with guidelines, policies, frequently asked questions (FAQs), fact sheets and registration standards at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au).

Psychologists are encouraged to review the following changes:

- New FAQ's about the 5+1 internship program
- Updated application forms:
  - The Board has updated the *AEAT-76* form (application for area of practice endorsement under the transition arrangements) to make it easier to use
  - The Board has updated the *APRO-76* form (application for provisional psychology registration) to include registration as a provisional psychologist under the 5+1 internship program pathway
- Publication of AHPRA's Advertising Fact Sheet and FAQ's

#### **Board committees**

The following Regional Boards of the Psychology Board of Australia are continuing to meet to address individual registration and notification issues:

- Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania & Victoria
- New South Wales
- Northern Territory, South Australia & Western Australia, and
- Queensland.

## Statistics

The Psychology Board of Australia has released a fifth set of [national registration data](#) that profiles in detail Australia's psychology workforce. The new national registration data is for February 2012, and highlights the dynamic changes in the profession reflecting renewals over the last three months, the movements of practitioners in and out of the workforce and the progression of provisional psychologists towards general registration. In particular, the February 2012 statistics show registrants moving to non-practising registration, and the steady increase in psychologists with area of practice endorsement.

The tables and national data for February 2012 is available on the Board's website at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx)

## Registration applications now open for four more professions

Registration applications are now open for practitioners in the four professions joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) in July.

From 1 July 2012, the following professions must be registered with their National Board to practise anywhere in Australia:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
- Chinese medicine practitioners (Including Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, oriental medicine practitioners and Chinese herbal dispensers)
- Medical radiation practitioners and
- Occupational therapists.

Registration application forms for practitioners in these professions who intend to practise after 1 July 2012 are published on each National Board website through [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

The National Board encourages psychologists to help spread this important message and refer anyone with questions about this to the website.

## The Board in 2012

The Strategic Plan for 2012 was adopted by the Board at the February meeting. In addition to the regular forums, stakeholder meetings, and undertaking the functions of a National Board under the National Law, the Board has determined that there will be four priority projects in 2012 including:

- Development of the Supervisor training guidelines and process
- Development of the 5+1 Internship Program Guidelines
- Development of the National Psychology Examination
- Review and of the 4+2 Internship Guidelines

The Board is developing some committees, working parties and portfolios to support the progress of these important and ambitious projects.

## Forums

### *Launceston and Hobart Forums*

The Board recently held two forums in Tasmania early in the new year. Both the forums were very well attended, with approximately 20% of all registrants in the state attending. The Board had the opportunity to meet with a number of local stakeholders about the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

### *Sydney Forum*

The Board is planning its next forum in Sydney on the evening of Thursday 19 April 2012. Information will be posted on the website shortly with details about registering for this event at:

[www.psychologyboard.gov.au/news](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/news).

The forum will provide an update on the national registration and accreditation scheme and will include the information on the following:

- supervision and supervisor recognition
- national psychology examination
- specialist recognition, and
- the 4+2 internship program.

#### *Stakeholder meetings*

Board members will continue to meet with local registrants and stakeholders, and conducting presentations on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme at meetings and universities during 2012.

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 2012.

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
2 March 2012