

Communiqué

Eighth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia 28 May 2010

The Psychology Board of Australia (Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

At its eighth meeting on 28 May 2010, the Board made decisions about a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

Preparation for commencement of the national scheme

At the meeting, the Board focused on outstanding issues to prepare for the implementation of the national registration and accreditation scheme. The Board is working closely with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (AHPRA) to address these issues and ensure a smooth transition on 1 July 2010.

Board codes and guidelines

The Board finalised its Guidelines on area of practice endorsements and its Guidelines on continuing professional development. The Guidelines will be published on the Board's website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au. These Guidelines have implications for the ongoing registration of registered psychologists and the Board urges all practitioners to be aware of their responsibilities in relation to the Board's registration standards, Codes and Guidelines.

The Board is in the process of analysing the feedback provided on its Guidelines on 4+2 internships and on Advertising. It will publish the final guidelines on its website. These will be effective from 1 July 2010.

The Board agreed that it would consult further later in 2010 about the required competencies for each area of practice endorsement.

Existing supervisor training programs

The Board agreed to provide interim approval until 30 June 2013 for existing supervisor training programs in Queensland, NSW and Tasmania. When the Board's new requirements for supervisor training programs are finalised, agencies delivering the programs may seek full approval by submitting an application against these new requirements. In the meantime, there is a clear framework for the providers of these supervisor training programs.

Current consultation processes

The Board has been consulting on a proposed Guideline for approved training programs in psychology supervision. Comments are due by Monday 14 June 2010 and the Guidelines will be finalised and published after the feedback is considered. The Board has also developed a Discussion Paper on *Options for the protection of the public posed by inappropriate use of psychological testing*. Comments are due by Monday 16 August 2010. The draft Guideline and Discussion Paper are published on the Board's website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au.

Transition arrangements

Registered psychologists should now have received a letter from the Board which explains each psychologist's registration type and endorsement (if any) from 1 July 2010. The letter will detail the information that will be

published on the online national Register of Psychologists. The Board again urges all psychologists to make sure the contact details held by their current state or territory board are accurate and up to date before 30 June 2010.

The Board also encourages psychologists to ensure they are registered on 30 June 2010 so they transition safely to the national Register of Psychologists. Please register early if renewal is due near mid year to make sure you transition safely to the national scheme.

A psychologist who does not hold current registration on 30 June 2010 will not transition and will be required to re-apply for registration and meet the requirements of the National Law and approved registration standards.

Student registration

The Board has published information about student registration on its website. Psychology students do not need to be registered whilst undertaking undergraduate or Honours year studies. However, students in Psychology Masters and Doctorate programs leading to general registration are required to hold provisional registration from the commencement of their higher degree.

The Board continues to work collaboratively with stakeholders including the State and Territory boards and is grateful to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) for the support and assistance being provided to support the introduction of the National Scheme.

Brin Grenyer
Chair
7 June 2010