

Communiqué

Seventh meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia 30 April 2010

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

At its seventh meeting on 30 April 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.

Registration standards approved by Ministerial Council

Since the Board's last meeting, Ministerial Council approved the proposed registration standards and other related proposals on 31 March 2010 with an amendment to the registration standard for area of practice endorsements.

The Ministerial Council approved seven of the nine areas of practice proposed by the Board as follows:

- clinical psychology
- counselling psychology
- forensic psychology
- clinical neuropsychology
- organisational psychology
- sport and exercise psychology; and
- educational and developmental psychology

The Board is reviewing the implications of the decision to exclude health and community psychology as approved areas of practice for endorsement and will continue to advocate to Ministers on this and other matters.

The approved registration standards come into force from 1 July 2010.

Transition arrangements

April letter

Registered psychologists will shortly receive 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 appear on the online national Register of Psychologists. The Board is urging 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.

Currency of registration

The Board encourages psychologists to ensure they hold current registration on 30 June 2010 so that they will transition to the national Register of Psychologists. Please register early if renewal is due near mid year to ensure safe transition to the national scheme.

A psychologist that 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.

Renewal arrangements

The Board recognizes that there is an increasing number of decisions that the Board needs to make as 1 July 2010 approaches and continues to work on implementation of the scheme.

A list of renewal arrangements that will apply from 1 July 2010 for every state and territory has been published on its website which advises the first renewal dates for psychologists across Australia to align future renewals with the national annual renewal date of 30 November.

Consultation on codes and guidelines closed on 14 April 2010

The Board welcomed the feedback it has received to its public consultation on:

- Guidelines on advertising
- Guidelines on mandatory notifications
- the proposal to adopt the APS Code of Ethics as the common code for registered psychologists
- Guidelines for area of practice endorsement
- Guidelines for continuing professional development
- Guidelines for internship

Positive responses were received to the Board's proposal on a Code of Ethics for registered psychologists. On this basis the Board decided to initially adopt the APS Code of Ethics and develop a new code in the future with the involvement of key stakeholders.

The Board is in the process of finalising its analysis of feedback on other guidelines and will publish the final guidelines on its website. They will be effective from 1 July 2010.

Development of the 5+1 program

The Board is committed to improving standards in the interests of public safety and has commenced further consultation on the development of an additional pathway leading to a qualification for general registration. The development of the 5+1 program has been referred to the Board's Registration Committee and the Examination Committee, and has commenced consultation with the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council and Heads of Departments and School of Psychology Association.

The program consists of 5th year coursework and practicum plus one year of supervised practice and the requirement to pass an exam at the end of the program.

Conclusion

The Board continues to work collaboratively with stakeholders including the state and territory boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and is grateful for the support and assistance that is being provided for the safe transition of psychologists to the National Scheme.

Brin Grenyer

Chair

30 April 2010