



## Communiqué

### Ninth Meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia 29 June 2010

The ninth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia was held over a series of teleconferences on 7, 15, 22 and 29 June and then a joint meeting with the New Zealand Psychology Board on 4 July 2010.

As in previous meetings, the Board focused on the issues to support the smooth introduction of the national registration and accreditation scheme on 1 July 2010. Matters related to the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Act and similarity in standards and workforce issues were discussed with the New Zealand Board. It is anticipated that meetings with New Zealand will occur regularly due to the need to work closely and to continue the working meetings that occurred annually with the Council of Psychologists Registration Boards (Australasia) prior to the establishment of the national scheme.

### Transition to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

At the time of the Board's June meetings, all jurisdictions except for South Australia and Western Australia had passed legislation to join the national scheme. The Board noted that AHPRA had established contingency arrangements to apply if one or more jurisdictions did not join the scheme by 1 July 2010.

The Board finalised its Registration Transition Plan which is published on its website ([www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au)). This outlines how registration types in each State and Territory transition to the new registration categories and endorsements under the national scheme.

### Guidelines

The Board has now published the following guidelines on its website to expand on its Registration Standards on various issues:

- Psychology guidelines for 4+2 internship program provisional psychologists and supervisors
- Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development
- Guidelines for Area of Practice Endorsements
- Guidelines for Mandatory Notifications

The Board is expecting to publish Guidelines on Advertising shortly.

The Board has adopted the Australian Psychological Society Code of Ethics for the profession.

### Transitional and grand-parenting arrangements for area of practice endorsements

The Board has recently published updated transitional and grand-parenting arrangements for area of practice endorsements. These include a grace period when the transitional arrangements require documentation to be lodged with the Australian Psychological Society. The updated arrangements also provide a new grace period for higher degree students in their final year of study who are seeking an area of practice endorsement.

The updated arrangements are provided to assist the transition to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The Board is monitoring these arrangements to ensure that they are fair and reasonable, and may offer further advice at a later date.

The Board has also published a more detailed update on this issue.

### **Professional Indemnity Insurance**

The Board has received a number of queries about its professional indemnity insurance Registration Standard, particularly from public sector employers and employees. The Board has published a Fact Sheet on Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements for employed psychologists and their employers and a Communiqué on Professional Indemnity Insurance, which clarify the Board's requirements. The Board will consider this issue further at its next meeting.

### **Frequently Asked Questions and Fact Sheets**

The Board has updated its Frequently Asked Questions with additional issues to address issues raised by psychologists.

### **Board Committees**

The Board finalised terms of reference and appointments to the following State and Territory Boards of the Psychology Board of Australia:

- ACT, Tasmania & Victoria,
- New South Wales
- Northern Territory & Queensland
- Interim South Australia (pending Western Australia joining the National Registration Scheme)
- South Australia & Western Australia

The Board delegated individual registration and notifications to the regional board level. Each Regional Board will have an Immediate Action Committee responsible for urgent matters and an Impaired Practitioner Committee to work with practitioners with impairments that may impact on their ability to practise safely.

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

The Board's website has been updated to coincide with the commencement of the national scheme. There are now many important documents, guidelines and policies published on this site and the Board encourages practitioners to make themselves familiar with the information published at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au). The website has details of registration fees and a searchable publicly available register of psychologists.

### **Psychological Testing Consultation Paper**

Submissions on the Board's Consultation Paper close on 16 August, and the Board encourages anyone interested to make a submission. Details of how to make a submission are on the Board's website.

### **Meetings with Stakeholders**

Members of the Board have been active in meeting with local registrants and interested persons and presenting at local psychology meetings. Presentations on the National Scheme have occurred in most jurisdictions as well as at the Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Annual Meeting. In addition, the Board participated in the 4th International Congress on Licensure, Certification and Credentialing of Psychologists Sydney 2-4 July 2010 and looks forward to presenting on the scheme at the Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference within the International Congress of Applied Psychology in Melbourne in mid July.

### Commencement of the National Scheme

The National Scheme commenced on 1 July as expected. For the first time, one national law covers the 10 nationally registered professions. A health practitioner can register once and practice anywhere except Western Australia, until Western Australia joins the National Scheme.

The Board thanks all those who have contributed to the establishment of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, including members and staff of State and Territory Registration Boards, professional associations, individual psychologists, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project team.

The Board looks forward to working with its State and Territory Boards, their committees and stakeholders to progress regulation of the psychology profession in the interests of the public.

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
9 July 2010