



Communiqué

Tenth Meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia 30 July 2010

At the tenth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 30 July 2010, the Board made its first decisions since the national registration and accreditation scheme was introduced. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

Transition to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

At the time of the Board's July meeting, all jurisdictions except Western Australia had passed legislation to join the national scheme. Western Australia is expected to join the scheme in October 2010, and the Board is preparing new FAQ's to assist WA psychologists in their transition. These will be published on the Board's website in due course.

Transition to provisional psychology registration in SA and WA

Since all Australian states and territories (except SA and WA) previously offered provisional or probationary registration to post-graduate psychology students, these students have automatically transitioned to provisional registration under the National Law. The Board has announced additional transitional arrangements for South Australia.

The Board has extended the timeframe for post-graduate students to apply for provisional registration and waived the usual application fee. Information about the transitional arrangements and fee waiver has been published on the Board's website.

This fee waiver will also apply to Western Australian post-graduate students, and the Board will publish more information on its website about Western Australia in due course.

Transitional and grand-parenting arrangements for area of practice endorsements

The Psychology Board of Australia has been consulting with stakeholders about the transition and grand-parenting arrangements for area of practice endorsement. The consultation has aimed to ensure that the grace periods applied are fair and reasonable. During the consultation, the Board became aware that some higher degree students (who are currently studying for master's and doctorate degrees) were outside the scope of the previously proposed transition arrangements.

The Board decided to extend the transitional and grand-parenting periods for psychologists who are currently enrolled in a higher degree and who are considering applying for an area of practice endorsement. These additional grace periods are published on the Board's website and supercede all previous communiqués on the transitioning and grace period arrangements for currently enrolled students.

Consultation Papers

The Board has two consultation papers open for submissions currently, and encourages anyone interested to make a submission. Details of how to make a submission are published on the website.

Submissions on the Board's consultation paper on the *Inappropriate use of Psychological Testing* will close on 16 August 2010.

Submissions on the Board's consultation paper on *Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsement* will close on 10 September 2010. The revised guidelines include a more specific definition of psychological practice, guidelines on a minimum of direct face-to-face client contact hours per week, and a proposal about the commencement of the registrar program.

Consultation on the *Guidelines for Approved Training Programs in Psychology Supervision* has recently closed. On the basis of submissions, the Board has agreed to further develop the supervisor training guidelines and will consult with stakeholders in the process.

The Board has also agreed to develop a consultation paper on the revised *Professional Indemnity Insurance Registration Standard*. This will be on the Board's website after Board's August meeting.

Working outside placements

The Board has agreed to permit post-graduate students, on approval by the Board, to work outside their placements while registered as provisional psychologists for any work of a psychological nature.

An application fee of \$80 has been determined, and an application form is currently being developed. This will be published on the Board's website in due course.

Recognition of Higher Degree supervisors until 30 June 2013

The Board agreed to recognise higher degree placement supervisors until 30 June 2013. During the transition period, supervisors will be required to meet new standards set by the National Board if they wish to remain on a list of approved supervisors beyond 30 June 2013.

Guidelines

The Board has now published the following guidelines on its website. The Guidelines complement the Board's Registration Standards:

- Guidelines on Advertising of Regulated Health Services

Health Insurance (Allied Health Services) Amendment Determination 2010 (No 2)

The Board viewed the amendment to the Health Insurance (Allied Health Services) Determination 2009 (No. 2) published in 2010 and noted that psychologists holding an area of practice endorsement in clinical psychology with the Psychology Board of Australia are eligible to provide clinical psychology (psychological therapy health services) services under Medicare from 1 July 2010.

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/all/whatsnew/0CDDD6F4124394AECA25775A000B8861?OpenDocument>

Board Committees

The following State and Territory Boards of the Psychology Board of Australia met in July 2010 for the first time:

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

The State and Territory Boards met to discuss delegations, and to begin addressing individual registration and notifications issues relevant to regional boards.

New Psychology Board of Australia website

The Board's website has been updated regularly since the national scheme took effect. Psychologists are encouraged to read the many important documents, guidelines and policies published at www.psychologyboard.gov.au. The website has application forms for registration and a searchable publicly available register of psychologists.

Meetings with Stakeholders

Members of the Board have been active in meeting with local registrants and other stakeholders and presenting at local psychology meetings and universities. Presentations on the National Scheme have been made in most jurisdictions as well as at the 27th International Congress of Applied Psychology in Melbourne in mid July.

Commencement of the National Scheme

The National Scheme commenced on 1 July. The Board recognises that introducing a new national registration and accreditation scheme is an ambitious undertaking and that there have been challenges involved in the startup of the 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 continue 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
12 August 2010