



Communiqué

Eleventh Meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia 27 August 2010

The eleventh meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 27 August 2010 was held at the Aitken Hill conference and events venue near Melbourne. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

Transition to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

The *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Bill 2010* was this month passed by the Parliament of Western Australia and the Western Australian Government has advised that state will join the national scheme by 18 October 2010.

The Board has published information about the transitional arrangements for provisional psychologists in Western Australia on the website, including information on the application fee waiver and the deadline for submission of an application.

The Board will be publishing information about the transitional arrangements for Western Australian psychologists about area of practice endorsement on its website in due course.

Consultation Papers

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. The Board encourages anyone interested to make a submission. Details of how to make a submission are published on the website.

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 in due course.

Consultation on the *Inappropriate use of Psychological Testing* has recently closed. The submissions are currently being analysed.

Supervisor List

The Board is developing a list of Board-approved supervisors to be published on the Board's website. The Board will be writing to supervisors who have transitioned to the scheme in due course.

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.

A policy for working outside of placements has been published on the Boards website.

Board Committees

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

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

Psychology Board of Australia website

The Board's website has been updated regularly since the national scheme began. Psychologists are encouraged to read the many important documents, guidelines and policies published at www.psychologyboard.gov.au. The website now has more than 15 forms available, organised into groups for general, provisional and area of practice endorsement. In addition, there is now a section for all the old forms for the 4+2 internship program for psychologists who are finishing their programs under previous state and territory rules.

Accreditation

The Psychology Board of Australia is undertaking work to select and train nominees from State and Territory Boards to represent the Psychology Board of Australia on APAC university site visits. APAC will provide training for these individuals in October 2010.

Meetings with Stakeholders

Members of the Board have been active in meeting with local registrants and other stakeholders. Presentations on the National Scheme have been made in most jurisdictions at local psychology meetings and universities.

The Psychology Board of Australia has decided to develop a quarterly e-newsletter for registrants. The first e-newsletter is planned for later in 2010. Communicating effectively with our registrants in this way relies on registered practitioners providing the Board with their email contact details. The Board encourages registrants can do this online through the Board's website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au.

Commencement of the National Scheme

The Psychology Board of Australia met with members of the other nine national boards, the Agency Management Committee and AHPRA Senior Executive for a full-day program on Saturday, 28 August 2010. Achievements of the National Boards and team over past 12 months were recognised, along with a review of progress and organisational priorities for the next year. The Board will be meeting in November 2010 for a planning day to set goals and schedule projects for the next year.

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
8 September 2010