



Communiqué

12th Meeting: 24 September 2010

The twelfth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 24 September 2010 was held at the Airport Hilton in Melbourne. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

Transition to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

The Western Australian Government has advised that Western Australia will join the national scheme on 18 October 2010. To support the transition to the National Scheme, the Board has provided Fact sheets for the transitional arrangements for provisional psychologists and area of practice endorsements, and conducted a forum in Perth about the national scheme.

Consultation Papers

The Board received more than 60 submissions about *Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsement*. The Board greatly appreciates the comments and input from stakeholders. The Board has made a number of changes in response to stakeholder feedback, and will be publishing an exposure draft for comment on these changes soon.

The submissions for the consultation papers for the *Inappropriate use of Psychological Testing* and the *Guidelines for Approved Training Programs in Psychology Supervision* are currently being analysed.

The consultation paper on the revised *Professional Indemnity Insurance Registration Standard* will be published on the Board's website shortly.

4 + 2 Program Policy Matters

Changing States (Principle Place of Practice) for pre 1 July 2010 4+2 Internship Registrants

Provisional psychologists who were undertaking a State or Territory Board approved 4+2 Supervised Practice Program before 1 July 2010 who wish to practise in another State or Territory and continue their 4+2 internship program are required to change to the new National 4+2 Internship program.

The Board is developing a policy about the requirements for changing states for these provisional psychologists, which will be published on the Board's website soon.

Unsatisfactory progress

The Board is developing a policy for provisional psychologists in the 4+2 Internship Program who have unsatisfactory case examples submitted with the six monthly reports, who fail to meet the minimum level of supervision required, and who provide unsatisfactory case studies. A policy for unsatisfactory progress in the 4+2 Internship Program will be published on the Boards website soon.

Old qualifications

The Board has determined that applicants whose qualifications were completed 10 years or more before the date of enquiry, who wish to undertake the 4+2 internship program, must successfully complete refresher training before applying for provisional registration. A policy for Provisional Psychologists with Qualifications that are 10 years old will be published on the Board's website soon.

Limited work role

Some provisional psychologists in the 4+2 internship program do not have work roles that achieve the eight competencies of the broad generalist training of the 4+2 program. The Board is developing a policy to assist with the operational decisions necessary when a provisional psychologist must undertake more than one work role to fulfill the internship requirements. This policy will be published on the Board's website soon.

Limited Registration for Teaching and Research

The Board is considering the development of a registration standard for limited registration (teaching and research). This will allow academics to be registered. A consultation paper is being developed for publication in November.

Transition for overseas psychologists

The Psychology Board of Australia has decided that applicants for general registration who hold overseas qualifications will be required to complete a transitional program of three months supervision to be eligible for general registration. This transitional program will include training in Australian legal and ethical issues, and cross-cultural issues in an Australian context. The Board will develop an online course as part of this program.

Expression of Interest : National Psychology Examination Panel

The Psychology Board of Australia invites senior experienced psychologists to express an interest in being on the National Psychology examination panel. The examination is being developed to support applications for general registration following an internship, and to ensure a consistent professional standard of Psychologists nationally. . Panel members are required to meet during 2011 over six full weekends in Sydney or Melbourne. The Board will cover expenses associated with attending meetings. The purpose of the panel is to provide draft curriculum material and sample examination items, and peer review examination drafts. Expertise is required in the following areas:

- a) ethical, legal and professional matters
- b) psychological assessment and measurement
- c) intervention strategies
- d) working within a cross-cultural context
- e) practice across the lifespan
- f) multiple-choice exam theory and statistics.

Please submit a one page expression of interest, outlining **your** expertise in **one (or more) of the areas above**, and a CV with contact details and referees, to the Chair, Psychology Board of Australia (chair@psychologyboard.gov.au) by 5pm 12 November 2010.

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)

The Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia has met with the incoming Western Australian Board members for induction and transition.

Psychology Board of Australia website

The Board's continues to publish important information on its website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au. Psychologists are encouraged to access the website to keep up to date with guidelines, policies, Frequently asked Questions (FAQ's), Fact Sheets and Registration Standards. The Board urges practitioners and other members of the profession to visit the website regularly to participate in Board consultations and remain up to date with issues for psychologists.

Stakeholders

Members of the Board have been active in meeting with local registrants and stakeholders and presenting at local psychology meetings and universities. Presentations on the National Scheme have been made in most jurisdictions, including a very well attended forum in Perth about Western Australia's upcoming transition to the national scheme. A forum in South Australia is planned for early October.

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
4 October 2010