



Communiqué

13th Meeting: 29 October 2010

The thirteenth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 29 October 2010 was held at the National Offices of AHPRA in Melbourne. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board at that meeting.

Transition to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

Western Australia joined the national scheme on 18 October 2010. The Board would like to welcome all psychologists from Western Australia to the national scheme. The Board notes that from 18 October 2010 the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme has been realised and that psychologists are now eligible to practise anywhere in Australia for the first time for a single registration fee.

The legislation passed in Western Australia includes some amendments to the mandatory reporting requirements in that state and is relevant to all 10 registered health professions. The Guidelines on Mandatory Reporting are currently being updated to reflect these changes and will shortly be updated on the Board's website.

Registration renewal due for Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania

Psychologists whose primary place of practice is in Queensland will need to renew their registration by 30 November 2010. AHPRA will be mailing out renewal notices shortly to psychologists who are due to renew their registration by 30 November 2010. If you have not yet received a letter and you want to apply to renew now, you can call the AHPRA contact centre on 1300 419 495 and get your login details so you can complete your renewal application through the website.

Psychologists whose primary place of practice is in Victoria or Tasmania will need to renew their registration by 31 December 2010.

Psychologists can check when their registration is due by checking their registration status on the National Register through the website at www.ahpra.gov.au. Follow the prompts and then click on 'view' in the right hand column to see your registration details.

Psychologists should try to renew their registration by the due date. Under the National Law, if registrants do not renew on time, they will remain registered for a one-month 'grace period'. Psychologists can renew and practise during this time.

The Board has no discretion under the National Law to extend registration to any practitioner who has not renewed within the one month 'grace period'. If psychologists wish to practise again they must make a new application for registration and meet all the requirements under the National Law. This includes providing proof of identity and qualifications and criminal history checks.

Deadline for Submission of the form ARSP-10 under the Transition and Grand-parenting provisions

The Psychology Board of Australia has outlined a number of transition and grand-parenting provisions for psychologists seeking an area of practice endorsement. These are outlined on the Board's website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au.

Psychologists who have (a) an approved supervision plan for the purposes of gaining specialist title in an approved area of practice in Western Australia, or (b) who have entered an approved individual bridging program with the APS for the purpose of eligibility to provide clinical psychology Medicare services, or (c) who have an agreed supervision plan/individual bridging plan for the purposes of gaining full APS College membership in a related approved area of practice **must communicate this to the Psychology Board of Australia prior to 30 December 2010**.

Psychologists who are within the above transitioning arrangements are reminded to ensure that they have submitted **form ARSP-10** to their relevant Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia by no later than **30 December 2010 otherwise the plan will not be recognised by the Board**.

Psychologists that submit the ARSP-10 form by 30 December 2010 and complete their requirements by **30 June 2013** will be eligible to apply for endorsement in that area of practice through completion and submission of form AEAT-76 prior to **30 June 2013**.

The relevant endorsement forms are on the Boards website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Forms.

Graduate Registration Pre-application Does Not Apply to Psychologists

At the end of 2010, there will be up to 30,000 graduates nationally, all seeking registration before joining the workforce. AHPRA has introduced a streamlined process for new graduates, and is asking students to pre-apply for registration in the four to six weeks before the end of their course, so AHPRA can begin the registration process, pending confirmation from education providers of successful graduation.

The pre-application process **is not available to students seeking registration as a psychologist**. This is because provisional registrants undertaking the 4 + 2 program have to provide detailed evidence of supervision or if undertaking the alternative higher degree program, they must provide evidence of enrolment in that program. Psychology students need to apply for provisional registration **after they have graduated**, when they also provide additional detailed evidence required by the Board.

Consultation Papers

The Board greatly appreciates the comments and input from stakeholders when developing registration standards and codes and guidelines. The Board will be publishing two consultation papers in November:

- 1) An exposure draft to the *Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsement*. The Board has made a number of changes in response to stakeholder feedback to the *Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsement*. This will be the final consultation paper on area of practice endorsement until the scheduled revision in 2013
- 2) The consultation paper on the development of a registration standard for limited registration (teaching and research). This will allow psychology academics to be registered.

The consultation paper on the revised *Professional Indemnity Insurance Registration Standard* is currently being updated to include new information received from specialists working in the insurance and legal sector. This paper will be released for comment in due course.

4 + 2 Program Policy Matters

The Board is currently finalising a number of policy issues related to the 4+2 internship program, which will be published on the Board's website. The Board has developed a sub-committee to consider policy issues and to ensure all the relevant policies are coordinated. The policies currently being considered include:

- a policy for unsatisfactory progress in the 4+2 internship program
- a policy for provisional psychologists with qualifications that are 10 years old
- a policy on recency of practice requirements

Policies on the following are being finalised and will be published on the Board's website by December:

- a policy on working in addition to placements
- a policy on place of practice removal
- a policy about the requirements for changing states for provisional psychologists

- 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

Expression of Interest: National Psychology Examination Panel

The Psychology Board of Australia has invited 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.

Expressions of interest are due by 5pm on 12 November 2010. The Board will select a panel from the applicants at its Board meeting in November.

If you are interested but have not applied, 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).

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
- South Australia & Western Australia

The South Australia and Western Australia Regional Board will meet for the first time in November. The National Board has developed an Immediate Action Committee for the SA/WA Regional Board (as it has done for each Regional Board). A reporting strategy is now firmly in place between the National Board and each Regional Board to ensure communication between each jurisdiction and the National Board about notification and registration issues and policy requirements and decisions.

Accreditation Matters

Under s49 of the *National Law*, the Psychology Board of Australia requires accreditation reports from the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) before it can approve the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. At its October meeting, the Board approved courses from the School of Psychology at the Australian College of Applied Psychology, and from the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors. These are published on the Boards website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation

Psychology Board of Australia website

The Board 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's website has been updated to reflect Western Australia joining the scheme. 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 very 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 South Australia about transition to the national scheme.

Presentations were made in both the public and private sector, to rural psychologists and at the NSW Psychology Convention. The Chair has also met with Medicare Australia and the Department of Health Australia, and with HODSPA (Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology in Australia). A number of presentations were given on the topic of Continuing Professional Development.

A forum in Queensland is planned for Thursday 2 December 2010 from 5pm-7pm. For more information on this forum, please view the Board's website or email Gabrielle.FitzGerald@ahpra.gov.au to register your attendance.

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
5 November 2010