



Communiqué

14th Meeting: 26 November 2010

The fourteenth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 26 November 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 Scheme for Health and Community Psychologists

Ministerial Council approved the inclusion of Health Psychology and Community Psychology as Endorsed Areas of Practice for the Psychology Profession at its November meeting.

Ministers made this decision following advice from the Board and key stakeholders that it is in the public interest to be able to identify from the national register practitioners with additional qualifications and supervised experience in health and community psychology.

The Board has requested that Ministerial Council approve an amendment to the registration standard to include health and community psychology. Psychologists will only be eligible for area of practice endorsements in health and community psychology under the *National Law* when the changes to the Registration standard have been approved by Ministerial Council.

After the registration standard is approved, the Board will publish a Fact Sheet on its website on the process of transitioning to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health and community psychologists. AHPRA is currently working on updating the application forms for area of practice endorsement to include health and community psychology. We expect these changes to be in place early in 2011 shortly after the next meeting of Ministerial Council. The Board has published a [media release](#) on this issue.

Registration renewal due now for Victoria and Tasmania - and overdue for Queensland

Psychologists whose primary place of practice is in Victoria or Tasmania must renew their registration by 31 December 2010. If you have not yet received a registration renewal reminder letter from AHPRA and you want to apply to renew now, please call AHPRA on 1300 419 495 and ask our team for your user ID and login details so you can complete your renewal application online.

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 renew their registration by the expiry date. Under the National Law, if registrants do not renew on time, they will remain registered for one month after the expiry date in a late payment period. Psychologists can renew and practise during this time. Psychologists whose primary place of practice is in Queensland and who did not renew their registration by 30 November 2010 will fall under this one-month late payment period.

The Board has no discretion under the National Law to extend registration to any practitioner who has not renewed within one month of their registration expiry date. 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 identify and qualifications and undergoing 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.

The following groups of psychologists **must advise the Psychology Board of Australia before 30 December 2010**:

- a) if you have approved supervision plan for the purposes of gaining specialist title in an approved area of practice in Western Australia; or
- b) if you have entered an approved individual bridging program with the APS for the purpose of eligibility to provide clinical psychology Medicare services; or
- c) if you have an agreed supervision plan/individual bridging plan for the purposes of gaining full APS College membership in a related approved area of practice.

If you fall into one of the groups above then the transitioning arrangements apply to you. You should ensure that you have submitted **form ARSP-10** to AHPRA office in your state or territory by no later than **30 December 2010 or the plan will not be recognised by the Board**.

If you submit the ARSP-10 form by 30 December 2010 and complete the transition requirements by **30 June 2013** you will be eligible to apply for endorsement in the relevant area of practice by completing and submitting form AEAT-76 before **30 June 2013**.

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

Consultation Papers

The Board values the comments and input from stakeholders when developing registration standards and codes and guidelines. The Board published two consultation papers in November:

- 1) An exposure draft of 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* that were released for consultation in August 2010. This exposure draft 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 and use the title 'psychologist'.

The consultation paper on the revised *Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements 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 early in 2011.

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 Board received a large number of applications from very well qualified applicants. The selection process for panel members is currently underway and results will be announced by the Board in early 2011.

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 met for the first time in November 2010.

Accreditation Matters

Under s.49 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 November meeting, the Board approved the accreditation of courses at the University of Canberra and the University of New England. These courses have been added to the Board's website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation

The Board also approved the discontinuation of a number of courses across the country in accordance with s.51(2) of the National Law, including courses at James Cook University, the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney. Students currently enrolled in these courses will still have their qualification recognised for registration once they graduate, but there will be no new enrolments for these courses.

APAC has informed the Psychology Board of Australia that there will be a number of site visits to Academic Organisational Units (AOU's) in 2011. The Board has approved a procedure for nomination and selection of PBA representatives to participate in these site visits. The Board's policy includes the requirements that the PBA representatives are practitioner members of the Board, have undergone training and attained accredited status, have recent regulatory experience, and that they are drawn from a state other than the one in which the AOU is located.

Psychology Board of Australia website

Since Western Australia joined the national registration and accreditation scheme in October 2010, all Australian psychologists can now register once and practise across Australia. There are now three consistent types of registration across Australia: general, provisional and non-practicing. The Psychology Board of Australia can now provide reports on the numbers of psychologists registered in each state under the various registration categories. The Board will publish this information on a new section of its website "About Psychology" shortly.

The Board continues to publish important information on its website. Psychologists are encouraged to access the website regularly to keep up to date with guidelines, policies, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), Fact Sheets and Registration Standards.

Newsletter

As mentioned in the September communiqué, the National Board is developing a regular e-newsletter for the profession. The first e-newsletter is planned for publication soon.

AHPRA has email addresses for approximately 50% of registrants, as not all former state and territory boards collected registrant email addresses. The National Board asks all registrants to update their details online and provide the Board with their email address as soon as possible (or when they register) so that they can receive e-newsletters in 2011.

In 2011, the Board will publish and circulate e-newsletters directly to all registrants for whom it has email addresses. In the meantime, the Board will publish the newsletter on its website and distribute to stakeholders.

The request for change of address details on the Register Form CHDT-00 can be found at: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Common-Application-Forms.aspx> and can be completed online. Alternatively registrants can update their address details when renewing their registration.

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 or will shortly be made in most jurisdictions, including a forum in Queensland about transition to the national scheme.

Presentations were made in both the public and private sector, to health departments, disability services, and APS Branches in Tasmania and Wollongong.

Please be aware that the Board's meeting in December will not be a usual Board meeting but rather a strategic planning day for 2011. The Board will not be meeting in January 2011.

The Board would like to thank registrants and stakeholders for the ongoing conversation and feedback about important registration, training and workforce issues over the past year, and would like to wish everyone a relaxing and safe holiday season.

The Board looks forward to continue working with its State and Territory Regional Boards, their committees and stakeholders to progress regulation of the psychology profession in the interests of the public and to high international standards in 2011.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
8 December 2010