



# Communiqué

## 17th Meeting: 25 March 2011

The seventeenth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 25 March 2011 was held at the National Offices of AHPRA in Melbourne. This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders about current matters and the decisions of the Board at that meeting.

## Transition to the National Scheme for health and community psychologists

In December 2010 the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council approved two new area of practice endorsements for psychologists, adding to the seven area of practice endorsements approved by Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010. As a result, the Psychology Board of Australia has revised its area of practice endorsements registration standard to reflect the Ministers' decision. This revised standard has been approved by Ministers and took effect on 9 March 2010.

AHPRA has produced a fact sheet for psychologists with information about the new endorsements including transition arrangements for psychologists seeking a health or community psychology endorsement. The Board has updated the forms relevant to area of practice endorsement and these are now available on the Board's website at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au). The current guidelines are now being revised to include the two new endorsed areas of practice.

## Consultation papers

The Board values comment and input from stakeholders when developing registration standards and codes and guidelines. The Board published three consultation papers in late 2010.

Submissions to the exposure draft of the *Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsement* have been analysed, and a number of recommendations made to the Board in the February meeting. The Board is currently integrating these recommendations into the Codes and Guidelines and making changes to the relevant forms. These changes will be taken to the National Board for final approval at its April 2011 Board meeting.

The submissions for the consultation paper on the development of a *Registration standard for limited registration for teaching or research* and the revised *Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements Registration Standard* are currently being analysed.

## National psychology examination

The national psychology examination is being developed to support applications for general registration, and to ensure a consistent professional standard of psychologists nationally. The Board advises that the national examination will be implemented from 1 July 2013 for applicants seeking general registration.

The Board will be publishing a consultation paper in April 2011 on the format, curriculum and operationalisation of the national psychology examination. The Board greatly appreciates the comments and input from stakeholders when developing codes and guidelines. If you wish to provide comments on this paper, please view the consultation paper when published at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx)

## Review of provisional registration fees

The Psychology Board of Australia previously waived the application fee for psychology provisional registration in all states and territories until 30 June 2011. The Board announced in December 2010 that it would review of the provisional registration fee in setting its budget for the 2011/2012 financial year.

The Board has now reviewed provisional registration fees in consultation with its finance and management committee and AHPRA. The Board has determined to extend the application fee waiver for another 12 months until 30 June 2012.

All individuals undertaking either a 4+2 pathway or a 5+1 pathway to general registration, or an APAC accredited higher degree leading to general registration, who apply for provisional registration before 30 June 2012 will be only required to pay the registration/renewal fee (\$390) and will not have to pay the \$410 application fee. The Board is also waiving the re-application fee for provisional registration at the expiry of two renewal periods.

## Policy matters

The Psychology Board of Australia is currently finalising a number of policy issues to support the implementation of the Board's standards, codes and guidelines which will be published on the Board's website.

A new section called 'policies, codes and guidelines' has been established on the website for policies, which will be effective from the date of publication on the website.

The following policies have been published on the Board's website at <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx>:

- policy for working in addition to placements (for higher degree provisional psychologists)
- policy for place of practice removal
- policy for changing states (Principle Place of Practice) for pre 1 July 2010 4+2 Internship registrants
- policy on limited work roles
- policy for assessing overseas qualifications

**Policies currently being considered by the National Board for publication on the Board's website shortly 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

## Board committees

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

- ACT, Tasmania & Victoria
- New South Wales
- Northern Territory & Queensland
- South Australia & Western Australia

There are new requirements under the National Law for Regional Boards from 1 July 2011 (or 18 October 2011 in WA). The Board has reviewed the composition of the Regional Boards and provided advice to the Ministers on the effective composition of the Regional Boards. Vacancies for roles on regional boards will be advertised in the coming weeks in major newspapers and on professional association websites. The Board encourages psychologists interested in becoming a board or panel member to apply make an expression of interest. Instructions are published at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Health-Professions.aspx>.

## Registration renewal due 30 June 2011 for NSW and WA

Psychologists whose primary place of practice is in New South Wales (NSW) or Western Australia (WA) must **renew their registration by 30 June 2011**. AHPRA will send a renewal reminder letter to these psychologists four to eight weeks before their registration expiry date. AHPRA will also send email reminders to all practitioners who have provided their email addresses. The Board encourages practitioners to provide their email address to AHPRA (by updating your contact details online). This will enable the Board to send e-newsletters and other important information for the profession, and AHPRA to contact practitioners about important registration or renewal information in an efficient and cost effective way.

Please be aware that the first renewal for NSW and WA practitioners under the new scheme will be for less than 12 months, to bring these psychologists into the new national registration cycle. This means that psychologists in NSW and WA will need to renew their registration by 30 June 2011 for five months only and again by 30 November 2011. The fee payable will vary pro-rata accordingly. This amount will be detailed on the registration renewal reminder that you will be sent by AHPRA four to eight weeks before your registration renewal is due. From November 2011, all psychologists with general registration will be due to renew by 30 November each year.

If you have moved address, or were registered in more than one state before the start of the National Scheme (1 July 2010 in NSW; 18 October in WA), it is important to check that your address details with AHPRA are up to date.

You can change your address online if you have received your ID and login. Go to 'Health Practitioner login' on the top right of the [Board's home page](#). If you have not received your ID and login please use the [online enquiry form](#) and select 'User ID' from the drop-down menu for category of enquiry, or call AHPRA on 1300 419 495 and ask our team for your user ID and login details. A request for change of address details form is also published on the website (Form CHDT-00) and can be found at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Common-Application-Forms.aspx>.

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](http://www.ahpra.gov.au). The easiest way to search is by name and profession. Follow the prompts and then click on 'view details' to see your registration details.

## 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 March meeting, the Board approved the conditional accreditation of courses at James Cook University.

These courses have been published on the Board's website at:  
[www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation)

There were no courses before the Board at the March 2011 meeting for approval of full accreditation or for discontinuation.

## Psychology Board of Australia website

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. The Board has recently updated a number of its Facts Sheets, including a new Fact Sheet on the requirements for CPD. Psychologists are encouraged to review these changes.

## Medicare and CPD

The Board encourages those providing psychological services funded by Medicare to ensure they meet their continuing professional development obligations. For further information:  
<http://www.psychology.org.au/medicare-psychology/>.

## Stakeholder meetings and Sydney forum

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. Presentations were made in both the public and private sector, to health services and APS College meetings.

The forum in Sydney in early April 2011 was very well attended, with more than 300 psychologists hearing about transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme.

The Board looks forward to continuing to work with its regional Boards, their committees, and stakeholders, to progress the regulation of the psychology profession in the interests of the public and to high international standards.

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
6 April 2011