



# Communiqué

## 18th Meeting: 29 April 2011

The eighteenth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 29 April 2011 was held at the National Offices of AHPRA in Melbourne. This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's last meeting. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

### Clarification of CPD Requirements

The Board has received significant stakeholder feedback from psychologists who are confused about the requirements for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) journals.

The Board recently published a CPD Fact Sheet to help explain the requirements (the Fact Sheet is available at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx)). It includes information about CPD journals and outlines that there are no minimum or maximum word count for the journals, and that it is up to individual psychologists to choose a style of note-taking (such as paragraphs or dot points) and appropriate length.

In response to queries from psychologists the Board had suggested that an appropriate amount of notes may be between half a page and a full page for every logged CPD hour. However this seems to have caused some confusion.

To alleviate confusion and concern, the Board will remove any suggested length of journal entries from all its documents and leaves it up to the individual practitioner to decide what is appropriate. The Board's CPD model is based on adult learning principles, therefore it trusts that the individual practitioner will use the journal to meaningfully engage in their own reflection relevant to advancing their annual learning plan. Practitioners are reminded that during CPD audits the Board will be interested in the presence of written reflection, and not the word count or length.

### Consultation papers

Consultation is an important part of the Board's engagement with psychologists and members of the public. The feedback provided is greatly valued, and informs the Board's development of registration standards, codes and guidelines.

The Board published three consultation papers in the last four months and is now considering the feedback provided in the consultation process and will review and revise the papers accordingly. Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback.

The Board is currently preparing a consultation paper on the proposed amendment to the provisional registration standard for the 5+1 internship program, which will be available on the website soon.

### 1. *Exposure draft to the Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsement*

The Board had previously made a number of changes in response to stakeholder feedback to the *Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsement*.

The exposure draft consultation aimed to:

- a) seek further stakeholder feedback on the significant changes to the guidelines and
- b) develop competencies for health and community psychology.

This is the final consultation paper on area of practice endorsement until the scheduled revision in three years' time.

The Board received more than 25 submissions to the consultation paper, which contained 17 recommendations. The Board approved most recommendations at its February meeting. The relevant documents will be updated to reflect these changes.

### 2. *Consultation paper on the development of a registration standard for limited registration (teaching and research)*

The Board considered the submissions on this consultation at its April meeting.

The overwhelming response was that limited registration for teaching or research should not be mandatory. Submissions also indicated that there is not enough demand to use the title 'psychologist' by people engaged in psychological teaching and research who are *not* eligible for General registration. Based on this feedback the Board has decided not to continue working on limited registration (teaching and research) at this time. The Board will consider reviewing this decision as part of its future work plan.

### 3. *Consultation paper on the revised Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Registration Standard*

The submissions on this consultation have been analysed by the Board in conjunction with the proposed changes to the Nursing and Midwifery Board's PII registration standard.

The Board has accepted most of the proposed changes from the consultation into the revised PII Standard, and plans to then develop a Guideline on the PII Standard.

The Board will continue to consult with the other National Boards about revisions to the PII Standard and plans to submit the changes to the Ministerial Council for approval later this year.

## 5+ 1 Program

The Board published a provisional registration standard on its website prior to 1 July 2010. This standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 under the National Law and took effect from 1 July 2010.

The provisional registration standard includes provision for both a 4+2 and 5+1 internship program leading to General registration.

Details of the requirements of the 4+2 internship program are included in the current standard but details of the requirements of the 5+1 internship program are not currently included. The Board is therefore developing a Consultation Paper on the proposed

amendment to the provisional registration standard for the 5+1 internship program. The 5th year is an accredited standard that is already in the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) standard. The sixth year is a workplace internship, and is anticipated to be equal to half the current 4+2 program, i.e. an internship of 1540 hours in duration meeting the competencies in the 4+2 program. This will be on the Board's website shortly, and interested parties are encouraged to take part in the consultative process.

## 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 and provided advice to the Ministers on the effective composition of the Regional Boards.

Vacancies for roles on regional boards are currently being advertised in major newspapers and on professional association websites. The Board encourages psychologists interested in becoming a board or panel member to apply and make an expression of interest. More information is available at [www.ahpra.gov.au/Health-Professions.aspx](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. Practitioners are encouraged 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.

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 renewal 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 [www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Common-Application-Forms.aspx](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 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.

The Board approved the accreditation of courses at Victoria University and the University of Melbourne. The Board approved the conditional accreditation of courses at Adelaide University and the Australian Catholic University. These courses will be added to the Board's website at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation)

## 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 (FAQs), fact sheets and registration standards.

The Board has recently updated a number of its Fact Sheets and policies. Psychologists are encouraged to review these changes.

## Stakeholder meetings and Melbourne forum

Members of the Board have been very active in meeting with local registrants and stakeholders and presenting at meetings and universities. Presentations have been made in both public and private organisations, including health departments, and the Department of Education. Presentations on the National Scheme have been made in most jurisdictions.

The Board is planning its next forum to be held in Melbourne on Thursday 23 June 2011 from 5.30pm – 7.30pm. Information will be posted on the website shortly with details about registering for this event.

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 May 2011