



Communiqué

19th Meeting: 27 May 2011

The nineteenth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 27 May 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.

Consultation paper on Proposed Provisional Registration Standard for the 5+1 program

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 has published a consultation paper on the proposed amendment to the provisional registration standard for the 5+1 internship program at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx.

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. If you wish to provide comments on this paper, please lodge a written submission in electronic form, marked 'Attention: Chair, Psychology Board of Australia' to psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on 29 July 2011. Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise.

Policy matters

In addition to developing registration standards, and codes and guidelines, the Psychology Board of Australia develops policies that support the implementation of the codes and guidelines.

The following policies will be published shortly on the Board's website under Policies, Codes and Guidelines at <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx>:

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

Supervision Fact Sheet

The Board has recently published a new [Fact Sheet on Supervision](#):

This Fact Sheet outlines a number of clarifications, and Psychologists are encouraged to carefully review it. The Fact Sheet offers:

- clarification around the different types of Board-approved supervisors
- eligibility to provide different types of supervision
- information about the limit of no more than five trainees undertaking the 4+2 internship to be supervised by one supervisor
- availability of Board-approved supervisor training programs
- clarification about eligibility to be a Board-approved supervisor during the transition period (until 30 June 2013) and what happens at the end of the transition period, and
- clarification about whether a higher degree is a pre-requisite for obtaining Board-approval as a higher degree supervisor.

Statistics

In December 2010 the Psychology Board of Australia released the first national registration data that profiled Australia's psychology workforce as at November 2010. A new web page was created at <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/About-Psychology.aspx> where the tables of data are published, and for the first time accurate, national registration data was publicly available.

The Psychology Board of Australia has now released a second set of [national registration data](#) that profiles in detail Australia's psychology workforce. The new national registration data is for May 2011, and highlights the dynamic changes in the profession reflecting renewals over the last six months, the movements of practitioners in and out of the workforce and the progression of provisional psychologists towards general registration. In particular, the May 2011 statistics show increases in the numbers of psychologists with an area of practice endorsement who have met transition and grandparenting provisions, including those who for the first time have health and community endorsement notations on the national register.

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 the Australian Catholic University, Edith Cowan University, La Trobe University, Southern Cross University, the University of Canberra, and the University of New England. There were no courses before the Board this month for conditional accreditation. These courses will be added to the Board's website at:

<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx>

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 the website to include the following information:

- CPD Fact Sheet
- Renewal Fact Sheet
- Fact Sheet on Supervision
- Policy documents
- The 5+1 Consultation paper
- Statistics for May 2011

Psychologists are encouraged to review these changes. Further information about the Board can be found on the Board's website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on Policy and Guidelines affecting Psychologists.

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) are encouraged to renew their registration before the 30 June 2011 deadline. The easiest way to renew is through the AHPRA website: www.ahpra.gov.au.

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 in Australia 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.

Psychologists can check when their registration is due by checking their registration status on the National Register at 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.

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 and community members 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.

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, the health services union, university students 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 about the forum including details on registering for this event is available on the website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Forum-Invitation-Melbourne.aspx.

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 June 2011