



Communiqué

20th Meeting: 24 June 2011

The twentieth meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 24 June 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.

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 sent a renewal reminder letter to these psychologists four to eight weeks before their registration expiry date. AHPRA also sent email reminders to all practitioners who have provided their email addresses.

Please be aware that the first renewal period 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.

From November 2011, all psychologists with general registration in Australia will be due to renew by 30 November each year.

NSW and WA psychologists who 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), should check that their address details with AHPRA are up to date (details on how to do this are listed in the last section of this Communiqué).

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.

Consultation paper on Proposed Provisional Registration Standard for the 5+1 program: now open for feedback

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, however 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.

Psychologists and community members are encouraged to read the paper and provide feedback. Consultation is an important part of the Board's engagement with psychologists and 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 29 July 2011. Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise.

Newsletter

The first edition of the Psychology Board of Australia's Newsletter - *Connections* - was published on the Board's website in December 2010. The Board encourages all registrants to read this newsletter, and familiarise themselves with the work of the Board.

The second edition of *Connections* will be published in July 2011 and will be circulated as an e-newsletter to all registrants for whom the Board has email addresses. The Board will also publish the newsletter on its website.

AHPRA has email addresses for approximately 70% 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. This will enable practitioners to receive e-newsletters containing important information affecting psychologists and allow AHPRA to contact individuals effectively with important registration and renewal information. For information about how to do this, please refer to the last section of this Communiqué.

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 Edith Cowan University. There were no courses before the Board this month for conditional accreditation. The newly accredited courses will be added to the Board's website at: 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.

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.

Board committees and expressions of interest

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. Interviews have already occurred in most jurisdictions and appointments by the responsible Minister are pending.

Stakeholder meetings and Melbourne forum

Board members have been meeting with local registrants and stakeholders, and conducting presentations on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme at meetings and universities. Presentations have been made in both public and private organisations in most jurisdictions.

The forum in Melbourne on 23 June 2011 was very well attended, with more than 200 psychologists briefed on the transition to the national scheme.

The Board is planning its next forum in the Northern Territory on Thursday 1 September 2011. 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.

Updating your contact details, including email address

Practitioners are encouraged to provide their email address to AHPRA (by updating their 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.

You can update your contact details, including submitting your email address for the first time, 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.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
1 July 2011