



Communiqué

20 August 2011

This communiqué highlights key issues from the meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 20 August 2011. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

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.

Consultation Paper on the Proposed Guideline: Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) for Psychologists

The Board has previously released *Consultation Paper 8: Proposed revisions to the Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Arrangements 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, and in consultation with the other National Boards.

The Board has taken into account the feedback received from the consultation, has made further revisions to the *PII Arrangements Registration Standard*, and has also developed a *Guideline on PII for psychologists* which is to be released for consultation as an exposure draft. The revised PII standard and exposure draft will be available on the Board's website shortly for consultation, and interested parties are encouraged to take part in the consultative process.

Consultation Paper 10: Proposed amendment to the provisional registration standard to account for the 5+1 program

Submissions to *Consultation Paper 10: Proposed amendment to the provisional registration standard to account for the 5+1 program* have been analysed, and a number of recommendations made to the Board in the August meeting. The Board is considering this feedback and will incorporate the recommendations into the development of a *Proposed Guideline for the 5+1 Internship Program*. Once developed, this will be available for consultation.

Newsletter

Issue 1 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.

Issue 2 of the Psychology Board of Australia's Newsletter – 'Connections' – is currently being 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](#).

Call for email addresses

AHPRA has email addresses for approximately 70% of registrants. The National Board asks all registrants to update their details online and provide the Board with their email address as soon as possible, so that they can receive e-newsletters, renewal reminders and other important information affecting the profession. This is an effective – including cost effective – way of sharing information directly with registrants

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.

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 conditional accreditation of courses at Flinders University/HELP University College and Macquarie University. The Board approved the full accreditation of courses at Swinburne University. These courses have been added to the list of approved courses on the Board's website.

Psychology Board of Australia website

The Psychology Board of Australia, in partnership with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the nine other boards in the National Scheme, has recently updated its website to make it easier to navigate and find important information. The Board's website features clearer menus and intuitive architecture.

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 at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au.

Board committees

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. From 1 July 2011, the Northern Territory has become part of the Northern Territory, South Australia & Western Australia Board of the Psychology Board of Australia.

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

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

Stakeholder meetings and Forums

Members of the Board have been very active in meeting with local registrants and stakeholders and presenting at public meetings and universities. Presentations have been made in both public and private organisations, including health departments, professional associations, APS Branch and college meetings, and university students. Public open presentations on the National Scheme have been made in many jurisdictions.

Darwin Forum

The Board is planning its next forum to be held in the Northern Territory on Thursday 1 September 2011. Details about registering for this event are on the Board's [website](#).

Canberra Forum

The Board is planning a forum in Canberra on Thursday 6 October 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.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
31 August 2011