



Communiqué

16 September 2011

This communiqué highlights key issues from the meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 16 September 2011. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Annual Conference

On 17 September 2011, all the National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) held their annual combined meeting. This was the first combined meeting that included the four new boards that are joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in July 2012. These new boards are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
- Chinese medicine practitioners
- medical radiation practitioners
- occupational therapists

This meeting provided an important opportunity for the Boards and AHPRA to reflect on the past year and identify future priorities and ways of working together.

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 recently released *Consultation Paper 11: Exposure Draft – Revised Standard and Guidelines on Professional Indemnity Insurance for psychologists* at:

<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

Psychologists and community members are encouraged to read the paper and provide feedback. 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 **2 November 2011**.

Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise.

Supervisor Training Project Update

The Board has previously consulted on the *Guidelines for Approved Training Programs in Psychology Supervision*. The Board has analysed the submissions to this consultation paper and is currently developing a consultation paper on the structure and requirements of the national supervisor training program. Further information will be available to the psychology profession in due course.

Registration Renewal due 30 November 2011 for all psychologists with general or non-practising registration

About 25,000 psychologists across Australia are due to renew their registration by 30 November 2011.

The registration renewal cycle for psychologists in Australia with general, limited and non-practising registration is now aligned and annual registration is due each year by 30 November. Psychologists with provisional registration renew on the anniversary of their initial registration. Psychologists in NSW and WA who renewed registration by 30 June 2011 were registered for five months and are due to renew again by 30 November.

The Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) recognise the importance of a smooth renewal process. AHPRA has begun an intensive communication campaign to support the renewal process, including sending several reminder emails and hard copy letters to practitioners who do not respond to the email prompts or for whom AHPRA does not hold an email address. Practitioners should watch for the reminders to renew.

While AHPRA will send registration renewal reminders to the address practitioners have nominated and by email, the responsibility to renew rests with the individual practitioner. There will be a late fee applied to psychologists who do not apply to renew by the due date, but who apply to renew within one calendar month of expiry (the 'late renewal period' in the National Law). Those who do not apply to renew within one month of their registration expiry date must, under the National Law, be removed from the register and make a new application for registration if they wish to continue to practise.

Updating your contact details, including email address

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.

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 Boards 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 is also published on the Register (Form CHDT-00) can be found at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Common-Application-Forms.aspx>.

Statistics

The Psychology Board of Australia has released a third set of [national registration data](#) that profiles in detail Australia's psychology workforce. The new national registration data is for August 2011, and highlights the dynamic changes in the profession reflecting renewals over the last 12 months, the movements of practitioners in and out of the workforce and the progression of provisional psychologists towards general registration. In particular, the August 2011 statistics include updated information from registrants in NSW and WA who renewed their registration for the first time on 30 June 2011.

The tables and national data for August 2011 can be found on the board's website at: <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx>

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.

There were no APAC accredited courses for approval by the Psychology Board of Australia for this month. A list of Board-approved courses is published on the Board's website.

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 at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au.

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

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

Review of Guidelines for 4+2 internship program: provisional psychologists and supervisors

The Board reviews its Codes and Guidelines and policy documents every three years. The Board is preparing to review the *Guidelines for 4+2 internship program: provisional psychologists and supervisors* for June 2013. The Board will develop a consultation paper in 2012 with proposed changes to the *Guidelines for 4+2 internship program*. Before this consultation paper being developed, the Board will be seeking feedback from the profession and stakeholders to determine the focus of the review. Information about how to provide feedback will be announced in the next Board newsletter, *Connections*, to be published before the end of the year.

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 to both public and private organisations, including health departments, professional associations, APS Branch and college meetings, and university students. Presentations on the National Scheme to the public have been made in many jurisdictions.

The Board's forum in Darwin on 1 September 2011 was very well attended, with almost 20% of the psychologists in the top end being briefed on the transition to the National Scheme.

The Board is planning a breakfast forum in Canberra on Thursday 6 October 2011 from 7.00 am to 8.00 am. Details about registering for this event are on the Board's [website](#). Please note that the venue for this event has been changed to accommodate the overwhelming response to 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
29 September 2011