



# Communiqué

21 October 2011

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 21 October 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 11: Exposure Draft – Revised Standard and Guidelines on professional indemnity insurance for psychologists*

The closing date for submissions to Consultation Paper 11 is **2 November 2011**. Psychologists and community members who have not already done so are encouraged to read the paper and provide a written submission in electronic form, marked 'Attention: Chair, Psychology Board of Australia - Consultation 11' to [psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au).

*Consultation Paper 12: Exposure Draft of the Guidelines for Supervisors and Supervisor Training Providers*

The Board has previously consulted on the *Guidelines for Approved Training Programs in Psychology Supervision*. The Board has analysed the submissions received and is now finalising a consultation paper on the structure and requirements of the national supervisor training program. This will be published in November on the Board's website 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, please lodge a written submission in electronic form, marked 'Attention: Chair, Psychology Board of Australia - Consultation 12' to [psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business **27 January 2012**.

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

*Consultation Paper 13: Exposure Draft of the National Psychology Examination Curriculum*

In April 2011 the Board released *Consultation Paper 9: National Examination Consultation Paper*. The Board has analysed the submissions to this consultation paper and has further developed the curriculum for the exam.

Consultation Paper 13 presents the modifications to the curriculum, and will be published in November and on the Boards website 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 - Consultation 13' to [psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business **27 January 2012**.

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

## The management of notifications about single court appointed expert psychologists in Family Court proceedings

Psychologists working in the area of Family Law have a disproportionate number of notifications made against them to the Psychology Board of Australia. Some of these notifications are from litigants who make a notification in the context of court proceedings.

The Board has been developing an interim policy to provide guidance to committees of the Board and AHPRA about managing notifications received about single court appointed experts. The Policy identifies the functions which the Board is required to exercise when it receives a notification and when the Board has discretion to defer dealing with a matter until the conclusion of Family Court proceedings.

The Board has also agreed to participate in an ad hoc committee convened by the Chief Justices of the Family Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia to further develop work in this area. In the meantime, the Board has developed an interim policy to provide advice to its committees.

The *management of notifications concerning single court appointed expert psychologists in Family Court proceedings: Interim Policy* will be published on the Boards website soon at: <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Codes-Guidelines-Policies.aspx>.

## Newsletter

Issue 1 of the Psychology Board of Australia's Newsletter - 'Connections' - was published on the Board's website in December 2010.

Issue 2 of the Psychology Board of Australia's Newsletter was circulated as an e-newsletter to all registrants for whom the Board had email addresses in April 2011.

Issue 3 of 'Connections' is currently under development and will be circulated to all registrants for whom the Board has email addresses in November 2011.

The Board encourages all registrants to read this newsletter, and familiarise themselves with the work of the Board.

The Board will also publish the newsletter on its website.

## 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 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 their registration by 30 June 2011 were registered for five months and are now 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 'Your Account' 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) can be found at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Common-Application-Forms.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.

The Board approved the conditional accreditation of courses at Cairnmillar Institute. These courses will be added to the list of Board-approved courses that 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](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au).

The Board has recently updated a number of its fact sheets and FAQ's. In particular, the Board has released a Fact Sheet to accompany the *Policy for higher degree students applying for General registration*. In conjunction with this, the Board has updated the PDEC-76 form to make it easier to use. 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 Health 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.

### *APS Conference*

The Board presented to psychologists at the recent APS Conference in the ACT, providing a briefing on the process of notifications under the National Law, issues and research relating to malpractice, and the new requirement of mandatory reporting for all health practitioners.

### *Canberra Forum*

The Board's forum in Canberra on 6 October 2011 was very well attended, with many psychologists joining the Board for breakfast to be briefed on the transition to the National Scheme.

### *Hobart Forum*

The Board is planning a forum in Hobart early in 2012. Details about registering for this event will be posted on the Board's [website](#) soon.

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  
27 October 2011