



Communiqué

18 November 2011

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 25th meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 18 November 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 Report

The AHRPA and National Boards annual report for 2010-11 has been released. This report gives an essential, first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners including 29,000 psychologists.

The annual report is an important source of information about the Board's work in regulating the profession and protecting the public. Achievements for the Psychology Board of Australia during the year included:

- a focus on promoting the profession's understanding of the requirements of the National Scheme and awareness of the Board's registration standards for continuing professional development, recency of practice, professional indemnity insurance, English language skills and criminal history
- the addition of health and community psychology area of practice endorsement
- holding stakeholder forums in every jurisdiction
- consulting widely on a range of guidelines and codes, including an extended consultation on guidelines for area of practice endorsement to ensure the policy balance was appropriate
- developing a range of new policies
- waiving the registration fee for provisional psychologists, and
- working constructively with a range of stakeholders including the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council.

The annual report also shows data on the number of notifications for psychologists, including immediate action and mandatory reporting.

The report can be found at: www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2011-11-1-AHPRA-annual-report-released.aspx

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 was 2 November 2011. The Board is currently analysing the submissions to this consultation paper, with a view for the changes to the Standard and Guidelines on professional indemnity insurance for psychologists to be submitted to Ministerial Council for approval in early 2012.

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

Consultation Paper 12 has been published on the Board's website at:

www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx. Psychologists and community members are encouraged to read the paper and provide feedback on the structure and requirements of the national supervisor training program.

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 by close of business **27 January 2012**.

Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise or if the content is not appropriate for publication.

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

Consultation Paper 13 presents the modifications to the national examination curriculum, and has been published on the Boards website at: 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 by close of business **27 January 2012**.

Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise or if the content is not appropriate for publication.

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 run 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 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 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 www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Common-Application-Forms.aspx.

Statistics

The Psychology Board of Australia has now released the latest set of [national registration data](#) that profiles in detail Australia's psychology workforce at www.psychologyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx

The new national registration data is for November 2011, and highlights the dynamic changes in the profession reflecting renewals over the last three months and the progression of provisional psychologists towards general registration.

In particular, the November 2011 statistics indicate a decrease of approximately 15% for provisional psychologists in South Australia. This is likely due to the fact that many Masters degrees in South Australia have mid-year entry and the figures indicate that two thirds of those who no longer have provisional registration have moved to general registration.

The statistics also indicate that there was an overall increase of more than 200 area of practice endorsements in the last three months, half of which are clinical psychology endorsements.

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 *full* accreditation of courses at Central Queensland University, Curtin University and the University of Sydney. The Board approved the *conditional* accreditation of courses at Central Queensland University and Macquarie University. These courses will be added to the list of Board-approved courses that is published on the Board's website.

The Board also approved the discontinuation of a number of courses across the country in accordance with s.51(2) of the National Law, including courses at the University of Adelaide, the University of NSW, and Macquarie University. Students currently enrolled in these courses will still have their qualification recognised for registration once they graduate, but there will be no new enrolments for these courses.

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 distributed by email its third *Connections* newsletter to all registered psychologists. The newsletter is also on the Boards website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx

The Board has recently updated a number of its fact sheets and FAQs. 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

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, and
- 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.

Hobart Forum

The Board is planning a forum in Launceston and in Hobart in February 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.

Please be aware that the Board's meeting in December will not be a usual Board meeting but rather a strategic planning day for 2012. The Board will not be meeting in January 2012.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
24 November 2011