



# Communiqué

**16 December 2011**

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 16 December 2011. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

## Supervisor List being published shortly

The Board will be publishing a supervisor list on its website shortly, which will be searchable by location and category. The approved supervisor list will be particularly useful for psychologists and provisional psychologists who need to make supervision arrangements.

The list will be published on the Board's website at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Supervision.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Supervision.aspx) and will be accessible by practitioners and the general public.

The list will include psychologists who were approved as supervisors by a state or territory board prior to transitioning to the National Scheme and psychologists who have applied and been approved by the National Board as a supervisor after 1 July 2010.

## Policy Matters

In addition to developing registration standards, and codes and guidelines, the Board develops policies that support the implementation of the codes and guidelines. The Board has been developing a number of policies that have been published on the Board's website under Policies, Codes and Guidelines at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx) :

- Policy for exemption of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements, and
- Policy on Applications for an Extension to complete the Requirements for Area of Practice Endorsement under Transition Provisions.

## 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 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](http://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](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 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](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 or if the content is not appropriate for publication.

### **30 November 2011 Registration Renewal now past due (for all psychologists with general or non-practising registration)**

About 25,000 psychologists across Australia were due to renew their registration on 30 November 2011. Over 92% of psychologists have already renewed their registration.

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.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (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 has sent registration renewal reminders to the address practitioners have nominated and by email, the responsibility to renew rests with the individual practitioner. The Board has no discretion under the National Law to extend registration to any practitioner who has not renewed within one month of their registration expiry date.

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.

### **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 Edith Cowan University, Flinders University, Murdoch University, Queensland University of Technology, University of Melbourne, and the University of Western Sydney. The Board approved the *conditional* accreditation of courses at the University of South Australia, and the University of Wollongong. 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 Newcastle. 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](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au).

The Board has recently updated a number of its fact sheets and FAQs. In particular, the Board has updated the ABAS-76 form (application to become a board-approved Supervisor) 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.

Please be aware that most of the Regional Boards will not be meeting in January 2012. The first meeting for all Regional Boards (except Queensland) will be in February 2012.

### Forums

#### *Launceston and Hobart Forums*

The Board is planning two forums in Tasmania early in the New Year. There will be a forum in Launceston on Wednesday 15 February 2012 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm and a forum in Hobart on Thursday 16 February 2012 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

The subject matter to be covered in each of these forums will be the same, and will include the information on the following:

- supervision and supervisor recognition
- national psychology examination
- specialist recognition, and
- the 4+2 internship program.

Information will be posted on the website shortly with details about registering for these events at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/news](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/news)

### The Board in 2012

Please be aware that the Psychology Board of Australia will not be meeting in January 2012.

The Board would like to thank registrants and stakeholders for the ongoing conversation and feedback about important registration, training and workforce issues over the past year, and would like to wish everyone a relaxing and safe holiday season.

The Board looks forward to continue working with its State and Territory Regional Boards, their committees and stakeholders to progress regulation of the psychology profession in the interests of the public and to high international standards in 2012.

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
20 December 2011