



Communiqué

23 March 2012

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 28th meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia on 23 March 2012. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Policy Matters

In addition to developing registration standards, codes and guidelines, the Board develops policies that support the implementation of the codes and guidelines. The Board has developed a number of policies that have been published on its website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx.

Most recently the Board has agreed that The *Policy on Working in Addition to Placements* may be applied to the 5+1 pathway for provisional psychologists enrolled in an accredited fifth year degree.

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.

There are no currently open consultations; however the Board is continuing to work on the following:

- reviewing and analyzing the submissions about supervisor training and incorporating the feedback into the Guidelines for Supervisors and Supervisor Training Providers, and
- incorporating the feedback from Consultation Paper 13 into the National Psychology Examination Curriculum.

The submissions to the recently closed consultation papers have been published on the Board's website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx.

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.

Psychologists are encouraged to review the following changes:

- *Fact Sheet for preparation of Case Studies* for the 4+2 Internship program. This fact sheet clarifies expectations for the format and content of case studies and will assist provisional psychologists and their supervisors in the preparation of case studies.
- A copy of the power point presentation given by the Chair, Psychology Board of Australia at the Tasmanian Forums during February 2012 about national regulation and registration at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx

Accreditation matters

Under section 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 accreditation (*with conditions*) of courses at the University of Queensland. These courses will be added to the list of Board-approved courses that is published on the Board's website.

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.

The Board has approved a change to the Terms of Reference for the Regional Boards to include the option for 12 meetings per year (instead of 11 meetings per year). This will assist Regional Boards with significant workloads to have an additional meeting in January.

Newsletter

The Psychology Board of Australia's Newsletters, *Connections*, have been published on the Board's website since December 2010. During 2011, the newsletter was circulated as an e-newsletter to all registrants for whom the Board had email addresses in addition to being published on the website.

Issue 4 of *Connections* is currently under development and will be circulated to all registrants for whom the Board has email addresses shortly. The Board will also publish the newsletter on its website.

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

Registration applications now open for four more professions

Registration applications are now open for practitioners in the four professions joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) in July.

From 1 July 2012, the following professions must be registered with their National Board to practise anywhere in Australia:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
- Chinese medicine practitioners (Including Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, oriental medicine practitioners and Chinese herbal dispensers)
- Medical radiation practitioners and
- Occupational therapists.

Registration application forms for practitioners in these professions who intend to practise after 1 July 2012 are published on each National Board website through www.ahpra.gov.au.

The National Board encourages psychologists to help spread this important message and refer anyone with questions about this to the website.

Stakeholder meetings

Members of the Board continue to be very active in meeting with local registrants and stakeholders and presenting at public meetings and universities. Representatives of the Board have had ongoing conversations with the New Zealand Psychology Board regarding issues of common interest relevant to regulation of psychologists in the Pacific-Rim.

Sydney Forum

The Board is planning its next forum in Sydney on the evening of Thursday 19 April 2012. Information is on the Board's with details about registering for this event at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/news.

The forum will provide an update on the national registration and accreditation scheme and will include the information on the following:

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

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
30 March 2012