



Communiqué

20 April 2012

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 29th meeting of the Psychology Board of Australia (the National Board) on 20 April 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.

Psychologists are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the policies of the Board.

The National Board is currently working on a draft Social Media Policy in conjunction with the other health practitioner boards. This policy confirms that psychologists must comply with the *National Law*, the *APS Code of Ethics*, and the Board's *Guidelines for Advertising Regulated Health Services* and other relevant laws when using social media. More information will be available about this policy in due course.

Consultation papers

Consultation is an important part of the National 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. 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.

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

- Making changes to the Guidelines for Supervisors and Supervisor Training Providers; and
- Preparing a consultation paper on the transition and operational issues relevant to the implementation of the National Psychology Exam

The National Board is also incorporating the feedback from responses to the review of the internship (4+2) program in response to its December newsletter.

The National Board is also working with the other health professions on developing a consultation paper on international criminal history checks. The Health Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), requires that before making a decision about an application for registration, National Boards must check the applicant's criminal history. This includes written reports about criminal history within Australia (such as CrimTrac) and from outside Australia for overseas applicants. When a criminal history is disclosed, further investigations are made and the criminal history is assessed according to the Board's Criminal History Registration Standard (see www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Registration-Standards.aspx).

A consultation paper will be released shortly which explores the issues associated with various options for refining the mechanisms for investigating criminal history checks from overseas applicants. The Board will invite feedback on the consultation paper when it is released on behalf of all Boards.

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.

In particular, there have been changes to forms AWOP-76 (working in addition to university placements), APRO-76 (application for provisional registration, to take into account the 5+1 program) and PPSR-76 (supervision report for those working in addition to university placements) that will be published on the Board's website shortly.

Accreditation matters

Under section 49 of the National Law, the National Board 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 of courses at Central Queensland University, Deakin University, Monash University, the University of Ballarat, the University of Newcastle, the University of NSW, and the University of South Australia.

The Board approved the accreditation (*with conditions*) of courses at the University of NSW.

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.

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 National 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 various universities and students across the country, health and education departments, and at psychology professional society meetings.

Sydney Forum

The Board recently held a forum in Sydney on 19 April 2012. This was the second forum to be held in Sydney and was fully booked. The Board acknowledges that there was a long waiting list to get into this event and that many people were unable to attend. The Board plans to continue public forums during 2012, including some in regional areas, and another forum in Sydney. Further information will be available on the National Board's website in due course.

Please note that a copy of the power point presentation given by the Chair, Psychology Board of Australia at the Sydney Forum about national regulation and registration is available at:

www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx

While in Sydney, the Board had the opportunity to meet with a number of local stakeholders about the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, the 4+2 internship program, the 5+1 program, workforce issues, and the supervision training requirements.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
27 April 2012