

# Communiqué

**22 March 2013**

The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). This communiqué highlights key issues from the 39th meeting of the Board on 22 March 2013. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

## Supervisor training

### *Update on Supervision guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training programs*

The Board has approved the new *Guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers*, which will be published on the Board's website in April.

The Board had previously held two public consultations on earlier versions of this guideline. Feedback received from these consultations was taken into account when approving the final guideline.

### *Transition provisions for Board approved supervisors end 30 June 2013*

Psychologists with general registration who are planning to become supervisors (including for higher degree placements) may choose to apply for supervisor approval **prior to 30 June 2013**, which is when the current transition provisions finish. Psychologists can apply using the *ABAS-76* application and providing the required evidence demonstrating that they meet the prescribed requirements.

All psychologists who are approved supervisors on 30 June 2013 will remain Board approved after the transition period ends. They can continue to be supervisors for up to five years (until 1 July 2018) before they must provide evidence of having completed a Board approved training program.

Any psychologist who is approved by a higher degree institution to act as a supervisor for higher degree placements can continue to provide that supervision without Board approval **until 30 June 2013**. Higher degree supervisors who apply for and are granted Board approved supervisor status **before** 1 July 2013 will commence the 5 year training cycle, and can elect to complete an approved supervisor training program at any time between 1 July 2013 and 1 July 2018.

All applications to become a Board approved supervisor that are made **from 1 July 2013** will need to meet the new supervisor training requirements. These require new applicants to show that they have completed Board approved supervisor training **before** approval can be granted.

Supervisor status	On 1 July 2013	Training requirements (every five years)
<b>Transitioned to the National Scheme as a Board approved supervisor</b>	No requirement	Complete Board approved supervisor training any time before 1 July 2018 and every five years afterwards
<b>Became a new Board approved supervisor before 30 June 2013 by completing form <i>ABAS-76</i></b>	No requirement	Complete Board approved supervisor training any time before 1 July 2018 and every five years afterwards

<b>Apply for supervisor status after 1 July 2013</b>	Meet new Board requirements for Board approved supervisors on application from 1 July 2013	Complete Board approved supervisor training before Board approval is granted, and every five years
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More information is available on the [Supervision](#) page of the website, under the *Registration* tab.

### Public consultation on common codes and guidelines

You are invited to provide feedback on reviews of revised common guidelines and, where relevant, codes of conduct, which have been released for public consultation by the 14 National Boards regulating registered health professions in Australia.

The Psychology Board of Australia is consulting on the following proposed guidelines which are common to all National Boards:

- revised *Guidelines for advertising*
- proposed *Social media policy*, and
- revised *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*.

The Board is also consulting on the continued use of the *Code of ethics* - developed by the Australian Psychological Society, or to use the shared *Code of conduct* adopted by most National Boards

These documents will become part of the regulatory framework for registered health practitioners in Australia.

Consultation is an important part of the National Boards' engagement with registered health practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders. The feedback provided is greatly valued, and informs the Boards' development of these important documents.

Feedback on the consultation document will generally be published, unless you request otherwise, although the Boards have a discretion not to publish submissions. Please let the Board know if you do not want your submission published, or want all or part of it treated as confidential.

Please provide feedback by email to [guidelinesconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:guidelinesconsultation@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business on Thursday 30 May 2013. The consultation paper can be accessed at <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

### Accreditation matters

Under section 49 of the National Law, the National Board requires accreditation reports from APAC before it can approve the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. At this meeting the Board approved APAC-accredited courses from:

- Deakin University
- University of Newcastle, and
- Monash University.

The updated list of Board-approved qualifications will be published soon on the Board's website at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx).

### Stakeholder meetings

#### **Brisbane Forum**

The Board held a public forum in Brisbane on 21 March 2013. This was the second forum to be held in Brisbane, with 400 registering for the event. A copy of the power point presentation given by the Chair, Psychology Board of Australia at the Brisbane Forum about national regulation and registration is available at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx). The Board plans to continue holding public forums during 2013, with the next one planned for later this year. Further information will be available on the National Board's website in due course.

### ***Joint Meeting***

While in Brisbane, the Board had the opportunity to meet with a number of local stakeholders including members of the Queensland Regional Board, Heads of University Psychology departments, Professional Program Coordinators and members of the Queensland Health Psychology State Wide Professional Network about the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, the internship programs, workforce issues, and the supervision training requirements.

### **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).

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
28 March 2013