



Communiqué

28 June 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 42nd meeting of the Board on 28 June 2013. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Apply to become a Board-approved training provider

The Board is inviting applications from suitably qualified and experienced individuals and organisations to deliver a supervisor training program across Australia.

The Board will assess and approve applicants based on their:

- ability to meet Board standards and requirements of the [Guideline for supervisors and supervisor training providers](#).
- responses to the selection criteria in the [application pack](#).

Multiple training providers may be selected to facilitate delivery of supervisor training nationally (in both urban and regional areas) and ensure a complete range of training components.

Applicants were given the opportunity to submit requests for additional information or clarification up to 20 days after the release of the application. The Board has prepared a [response to individual questions and the answers](#).

Applications to become a Board-approved training provider close on 16 August 2013.

Policy for overseas qualified applicants for registration

From 1 July 2013, [overseas trained applicants](#) for registration will usually be required to apply for provisional registration to enable them to:

- complete a minimum three month [transitional program](#) (if otherwise unable to demonstrate substantially equivalent supervised practice in legal, ethical, professional, and cross cultural issues in the Australian context), and
- pass the National Psychology Examination.

The policy for overseas qualified applicants for registration (previously named policy for applicants for general registration who hold overseas qualifications) has been revised to allow for these new requirements. It will be published on the Board's website shortly.

Current consultations

Review of registration standards, guidelines and codes

The first 10 National Boards to enter the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) developed standards, guidelines and codes for its commencement on 1 July 2010. These standards, guidelines and codes are currently under review.

All National Boards have registration standards which define the requirements that applicants, registrants or students need to meet to be registered. There are two registration standards that are common, or largely common, to all National Boards:

- *English language skills registration standard* (largely common), and
- *Criminal history registration standard* (common).

The review of these two standards is being coordinated across all National Boards. Preliminary consultation on these common registration standards has closed and the consultation paper is being finalised before public consultation.

There are also registration standards which are specific to the psychology profession. The Psychology Board has started its review of registration standards for continuing professional development, recency of practice and general registration. The Board will consult on these registration standards later in 2013.

Assignment of accreditation function for the psychology profession

On 5 February 2013 the Board received a submission from the Australian Psychological Society (APS) to address Australian Psychology Accreditation Council's (APAC) governance and independence issues raised by stakeholders as part of the Board's review of its accreditation arrangements (see Consultation Paper 15, in the [News>Past consultations](#) section of the Board's website).

The Board has been actively considering these issues and would like to acknowledge the significant work the APS has undertaken towards resolving this matter.

The Board needs to ensure that accreditation arrangements for psychology meet the requirements of the National Law and good governance, particularly the independence of accreditation decision-making.

The Board is committed to resolving this matter and continues discussions with the APS.

The Board understands the keen interest many stakeholders have in this issue and will continue to provide updates in our communiqués and newsletter.

Accreditation - approved programs of study

Under section 49 of the National Law, the National Board requires accreditation reports from Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (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 the full accreditation of courses at Cairnmillar Institute, and Monash University. The Board also approved the accreditation (with conditions) of a course at Deakin 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 Deakin University and University of Ballarat. Students currently enrolled in these courses will still have their qualification recognised for registration when 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.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
12 July 2013