



# Communiqué

**25 October 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 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board on 25 October 2013. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

## Assignment of accreditation function for the psychology profession

On 1 November 2013, the Board and the Australian Psychological Society published a joint statement which outlines key changes to the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council's membership, constitution and governance. These changes will ensure APAC meets the needs of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme..

It is anticipated that an amended constitution will be adopted and a new Board appointed in early 2014, when the National Board will move to re-appoint APAC as the accrediting body for psychology to the end of June 2018.

Read the [joint statement](#)

## Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program

The Board has approved the new *Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program*.

Feedback received from the public consultation ([Consultation paper 19: draft guidelines for the 5+1 internship program](#)) has been considered when approving the final guidelines. The new guidelines will take effect from the date that they are published on the Board's website.

The Board continues with its full review of the *Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program*, for which it will be consulting in due course.

## Supervision policies

The Board has approved two new supervision policies:

- *Policy on refusing or revoking Board approved supervisor status, and*
- *Policy on the revocation of Board approved supervisor training provider status.*

The new policies set out the circumstances when a Board-approved supervisor or supervisor training provider no longer meets the requirements for approval as set out in the guidelines and will have their Board-approval revoked.

The new policies have been published on the Board's [website](#).

## Registration standards, codes and guidelines for review

The Board developed registration standards, codes and guidelines for the start of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010. These standards, codes and guidelines were scheduled for review at least every three years.

### Registration standards

All National Boards have registration standards that set the requirements that applicants for registration and registrants need to meet to be registered.

The National Boards are undertaking [public consultation](#) on standards that set the:

- **English language skills** necessary for registration, and
- the matters considered in deciding whether an individual's **criminal history** is relevant to the practice of their profession.

Preliminary consultation has commenced for the registration standards outlining requirements for:

- continuing professional development, and
- the nature, extent, period and recency of any previous practice by applicants for registration.

The Board has also reviewed its registration standard for general registration and will consult on this standard and the draft guidelines for continuing professional development and the draft policy for recency of practice requirements at the same time as these other registration standards. Following preliminary consultation, the Board will release the standards, guidelines and policies for public consultation.

The registration standards have been reformatted and written in plain English. The Board has made changes where it received feedback that elements in the standards, guidelines and policies have not worked as intended.

### Common guidelines

Following public consultation, the National Boards are now finalising the following common guidelines:

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

The new guidelines will take effect from the date that they are published on Board websites.

## Practitioner audit

AHPRA and the National Boards are developing a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with mandatory registration standards. Pilot audits have been conducted which were designed to determine the frequency, size and type of audits required and establish our ongoing audit methodology.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that National Boards and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking the declarations made by a random sample of practitioners. They help to make sure that practitioners are meeting the standards they are required to meet and provide important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Auditing of all professions has commenced. If selected for audit you will be notified in writing and requested to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the standard.

Further information is available on the Board's [website](#).

## Accreditation programs

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. There were no programs before the Board for approval at this meeting of the Board. The list of Board-approved courses is published on the Board's [website](#).

## Adelaide forum

The Board is planning its next public forum in Adelaide on Thursday 28 November 2013. It is essential to RSVP to attend this event and due to space limitations there may be a waiting list. Only those with a confirmed RSVP will be admitted.

Date: Thursday 28 November 2013

Time: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Venue: The Terrace Ballroom  
Stamford Plaza Adelaide  
150 North Terrace, Adelaide  
T (08) 8461 1111 F (08) 8461 0365

RSVP: 21 November 2013  
Sue Carey  
E: [sue.carey@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:sue.carey@ahpra.gov.au)

## Reminder: renewal of registration for 2013/14

The Board encourages psychologists to renew their registration with the Board online by 30 November. Renewals received within a month of their registration expiry date will incur a late fee. Under the National Law, psychologists who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of Psychologists. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise psychology in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

The following pages on the Psychology Board website contain useful information for psychologists:

[Registration standards](#)  
[Registration renewal](#)  
[FAQ for psychologists](#)

## Professor Brin Grenyer

Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
8 November 2013