



# Communiqué

**29 November 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 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board on 29 November 2013. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

## Call for applications for appointment to state and regional Boards of the Psychology Board of Australia

State and regional boards exercise their functions in the jurisdiction to provide an effective and timely local response to health practitioners and other persons. Applications are now sought for appointments to the state and regional boards of the Psychology Board of Australia. Applications are sought in the following two categories:

- health practitioner members, and
- community members.

Appointments and reappointments are for up to three years as decided by the Minister of Health in each jurisdiction and will commence from July 2014.

For:

- more information on the role and the application process, please download the application guide and application form from the [Board member recruitment](#) page on the AHPRA website, or
- general enquiries please contact [boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au)

Applications close by **5.00pm AEDT** on **Monday 20 January 2014**.

## New Board-approved supervisor training programs

The Board has determined the outcome of the application process (that closed on 16 August 2013) to become a Board-approved supervisor training provider for the next five years.

The Board has approved the following supervisor training programs, which may be offered in any state or territory:

- the APS Institute
- the Cairnmillar Institute
- Communicare
- Dr Daphne Hewson
- Deakin University, and
- STAP.

The purpose of Board-approved supervisor training is to equip supervisors with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide competency-based supervision to supervisees undertaking:

- a 4+2 internship program
- 5+1 internship program
- accredited higher degree program
- working in addition to placements for higher degree students, and/or

- registrar program leading to area of practice endorsement.

Depending on which of these pathways the supervisees are taking, the competencies they require will differ in scope. However, the general supervisory competencies required of supervisors apply in all pathways.

Board-approved training programs provide both initial supervisor training (full training) for psychologists wishing to become a Board-approved supervisor for the first time (new supervisors), and master class training for Board-approved supervisors who wish to renew their Board-approved supervisor status every five years.

These programs have approval for five years (until 31 December 2018).

For more information, go to the Board's website under *Registration>Supervision> Supervisor training*.

### Public consultation on English language skills and criminal history standards

National Boards are asking the community and health practitioners to have their say on the standards registered health practitioners must meet for English language skills and criminal history. Submissions are due by 23 December 2013.

To support evidence-based policy setting, the National Boards commissioned research on English language skills for health professionals. A summary of the research is published in the consultation paper. The research was one of several information sources the National Boards considered when revising the English language registration standard, along with three years practical experience of the current regulatory requirement, historical approaches and the approaches of comparable jurisdictions.

The consultation paper is available on the website under [Current consultations](#).

### 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.

At this meeting the Board approved the full accreditation of courses at:

- University of Ballarat
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of the Sunshine Coast, and
- Bond University.

The Board also approved the accreditation (with conditions) of courses at:

- Curtin University, and
- University of South Australia.

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:

- Australian Catholic University
- James Cook University
- Monash University
- University of Ballarat
- The University of Sydney, and
- Bond University.

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.

## Stakeholder meetings

### ***Adelaide forum***

The Board hosted a public forum in Adelaide on 28 November 2013 that was attended by 150 psychologists. This was the second forum to be held in Adelaide. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation given by the Chair of the Board about national regulation and registration will be available on the Board's [website](#) shortly. The Board plans to continue holding public forums in 2014.

### ***Local meeting with Heads of Psychology Schools and Professional Program Coordinators***

While in Adelaide, the Board had the opportunity to meet with a number of local stakeholders including Heads of University Psychology departments and Professional Program Coordinators about the National 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

6 December 2013