



# Communiqué

**20 December 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 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board on 20 December 2013. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

## Welcome new member

Members of the Board congratulated Professor Jennifer Scott on her appointment to the Board and welcomed her to her first meeting. Professor Scott has been appointed by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council as the practitioner member for Tasmania.

## New guideline for the 5+1 internship program released

The Board has released its new Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program.

Provisional psychologists who have been undertaking the internship year of the program under transition provisions are now required to complete their internship under the new guidelines for the 5+1 internship program. Given the more flexible model, it is expected that 5+1 provisional psychologists will find the change to the new guidelines advantageous. The Board has also released a suite of user-friendly reporting and recording forms to support the new 5+1 guideline.

The Board consulted widely with the profession and the community on the development of the Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program. Feedback from provisional psychologists, supervisors, employers, professional associations, consumers and other stakeholders has been invaluable and is now being used to inform work on the new guideline for 4+2 internship programs. A public consultation paper on the 4+2 will be released in 2014.

Further information

- [Read more about the 5+1 internship program](#)
- [Review the new 5+1 internship program forms](#)
- [Find out about accredited 5+1 pathway degrees](#)

## Revised Guidelines for advertising and mandatory notifications and social media policy

In 2014, the Board will be publishing revised common guidelines and policy:

- revised *Advertising guidelines*
- *Social media policy*, and
- revised *Mandatory reporting guidelines*

These guidelines and policy will come into effect in March 2014, and all registered health practitioners will need to meet these new standards. All National Boards consulted widely in 2013 on the draft versions of these documents. More information will be published on the AHPRA and National Boards' websites in February.

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

The Psychology Board of Australia has established state and regional boards to make registration and notification decisions about individual registered psychologists. 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**.

### **Call for expressions of interest to serve as a Director on the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council**

On 1 November 2013 the Australian Psychological Society and the Psychology Board of Australia released a [joint statement](#) on accreditation.

In preparation for this revised APAC, we are seeking expressions of interest for Directors to be nominated by the Psychology Board of Australia. Please note the full Board of APAC will comprise 12 Directors, and that the APS and HODSPA will also each be separately nominating 4 persons by their own separate processes. The APAC Board typically meets approximately 6 Mondays a year, mostly in Melbourne, although other meetings both face to face and by teleconference may be initiated. In this revised APAC, 4 Directors are nominated by the Psychology Board of Australia - 3 Psychologists, and 1 non-psychologist community member with expertise in the law.

To express an interest in any of these 4 positions nominated by the Psychology Board of Australia, please write a cover letter outlining relevant experience, and attach a curriculum vitae that includes contact details of two referees to: Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia, at [psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au). Please note that current members of the Psychology Board of Australia, including Regional Board members, are not eligible for appointment.

Expressions of interest close by **5.00pm AEDT** on **Wednesday 12th March 2014**.

### **Accreditation of 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:

- Australian Catholic University
- Flinders University
- Queensland University of Technology
- University of Sydney, and
- University of New South Wales

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

- Australian College of Applied Psychology Pty Ltd
- Australian Catholic University
- Australian Institute of Psychology
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Queensland University of Technology
- Swinburne University of Technology
- University of England

- University of Western Australia
- University of Western Sydney
- University of New South Wales
- Victoria 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:

- Macquarie University
- Queensland University of Technology
- Swinburne University of Technology

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.

### National Psychology Examination

The first national psychology examination was successfully held on December 6 across Australia. The next date to sit the examination is Friday 21 February and candidates can enrol through the [examination portal](#).

### Registration renewal now in late period

Psychologists registration was due for renewal **by 30 November 2013**. By the start of the late period, 96% per cent of psychologists had renewed, the majority online.

If you didn't renew your registration on time and you wish to remain registered, you can still renew until **31 December 2013**, but a late payment fee will apply. The quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is [online](#). Psychologists who do not want to renew their registration can simply ignore the reminders from AHPRA or go online to 'opt out' of renewing.

AHPRA and the National Board want to make sure that practitioners who wish to renew their registration do so before they risk it lapsing. Renewal reminders will continue to be sent throughout the renewal period. Using the 'opt out' service and registering your decision to not renew registration puts a stop to renewal reminders.

Under the National Law<sup>1</sup>, if you haven't renewed by 31 December 2013 your registration will lapse. Your name will be removed from the [national register of practitioners](#) and you must cease practising psychology immediately. If you wish to keep practising but do not renew by 31 December you must make a new application for registration.

Fast track application forms will be available on the Board website under *Forms* or by phoning the AHPRA Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 during January. If submitting a fast track application, you cannot practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

An FAQ about renewal is available on the [Board's website](#).

### Professor Brin Grenyer

Chair

Psychology Board of Australia

24 December 2013

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<sup>1</sup> The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).