



Communiqué

28 February 2014

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 49th meeting of the Board on 28 February 2014. 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 expressions of interest to serve as a Director on the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

The Psychology Board of Australia is inviting expressions of interest from persons wishing to be a Psychology Board of Australia nominee as a director on the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) Board, as part of a revised APAC Board structure. It would be appreciated if this call for expressions of interest is forwarded to relevant people in your area.

The Psychology Board of Australia will nominate four directors (three psychologists and one non-psychologist community member with expertise in law) to sit on the APAC Board

The APAC Board typically meets approximately six Mondays a year, mostly in Melbourne, although other meetings both face to face and by teleconference may be held.

To express your interest, please send your curriculum vitae (including the contact details of two referees), attaching a cover letter outlining your relevant experience, to: Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia, at psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au.

The APAC Board will have a total of 12 directors. The Australian Psychological Society (APS) and Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association (HODSPA) will be nominating four persons each by their own separate processes.

Please note that current members of the Psychology Board of Australia, including Regional Board members, are not eligible for appointment.

For more information about the revised APAC structure and Board, please refer to the [joint statement](#) on accreditation released by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and the Psychology Board of Australia in 2013.

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

New Board-approved supervisor training programs available

In 2013, the Board invited applications from suitably qualified and experienced individuals and organisations to deliver supervisor training programs across Australia.

Multiple training providers have been approved by the Board to facilitate the delivery of supervisor training nationally. A complete range of supervisor training is now available in both urban and regional areas in every state and territory.

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

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.

The Board has approved the following twelve supervisor training programs:

Name of provider	Full training	Master class training	Location**
the APS Institute	yes	yes	National
the Cairnmillar Institute	yes	yes	NSW, VIC, WA
Clinical Supervision Services	yes	yes	NSW
Communicare	yes	yes	NSW, WA
Dr Daphne Hewson	no	yes	National
Deakin University	yes	yes	VIC
Learning Links	yes (component 2 and 3 only)*	yes	NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC
Monash University	no	yes	Melbourne
STAP	Yes (component 2 and 3 only)*	yes	National
Swinburne University	yes	yes	Melbourne
University of NSW (Wentworth Clinic)	Yes (component 2 and 3 only)*	yes	NSW
Victoria University	yes	yes	Melbourne

Note*: Full training consists of 3 components: 1=knowledge/preparatory reading; 2=skills training; and 3=competency-based assessment and evaluation.

Note:** With the exception of three universities, all providers have agreed to provide supervisor training in both regional and urban areas; many providers have indicated that they will provide additional workshops in regional/rural areas on request.

For more information on:

- supervisor training (including web links to the approved providers)
- requirements for Board approved supervisors, and
- new FAQ go to the [Supervisor page](#) on the Board's website.

Revised guidelines for advertising and mandatory notifications and social media policy

Revised guidelines and a new social media policy, containing important information for all registered health practitioners including psychologists have recently been released.

Psychologists need to familiarise themselves with this guidance to ensure their practice meets National Board expectations from mid-March. The documents were released by the National Boards regulating registered health practitioners in Australia through the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The documents relevant to the psychology profession are

- revised *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services*
- revised *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*
- new *Social media policy*.

The documents are the result of a scheduled review three years into the National Scheme and are the first set of revised documents to be released this year, with more to come later in 2014.

FAQ and additional information

- [FAQ](#) on the transition from the current to the new/revised documents.
- [Document](#) showing the differences between the current and revised *Mandatory notifications guidelines*

Consultation update – what’s open or about to open

Consultation is an important part of the National Board’s engagement with psychologists and members of the public. The feedback provided is greatly valued, and informs the Board’s development of registration standards, codes, and guidelines. Shortly, the Board will commence public consultation on its general, continuing professional development and recency of practice registration standards and any associated guidelines and policies. To read new and past consultation papers go to the Board’s website under the [News](#) tab.

Accreditation standards - update

The Board recently considered a draft accreditation standard developed by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) pursuant to Section 46 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (the National Law). The draft standard is proposed to replace the current APAC Accreditation Standards for Psychology Courses (June 2010).

The draft standard submitted to the Board shows strong progress towards a new set of standards for education and training of psychologists in Australia. However, the Board has asked APAC to address a number of outstanding issues (pursuant to section 47(2)c) before submitting the draft standard again to the Board for consideration.

The Board appreciates the hard work APAC has done to date and looks forward to seeing a complete package including standards for area of practice endorsement in the future.

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 APAC-accredited courses from:

- University of Western Sydney
- University of Newcastle
- Australian Catholic University
- 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. An online search for approved psychology courses is currently being developed and will be publicly available soon.

National Psychology Examination

There have now been two sittings of the National Psychology Examination since it commenced in July 2013. The next date to sit the examination is Friday 23 May 2014 and candidates can enrol through the [examination portal](#).

Upcoming examination dates for 2014: Friday 23 May 2014, Friday 22 August 2014, and Friday 12 December 2014.

Testing facilities for the exam are provided by Kryterion which uses a number of testing centres across Australia. Candidates, you can visit their website to [find your nearest centre](#).

Reminder for 4+2 and 5+1 interns: The requirement to pass the National Psychology Examination before applying for general registration comes into effect for internship pathway provisional psychologists on 1 July 2014.

Individuals who successfully complete all the requirements of the internship and lodge a complete application for general registration on or before 30 June 2014 are exempt from the exam.

The Board anticipates a high number of applications for general registration in the lead up to the exam exemption deadline, so if you intend to submit yours in May or June please remember that your case studies need to be submitted to the Board, assessed, passed, and returned to you before you can submit your application for general registration.

Provisionally registered psychologists who will apply for general registration after 1 July this year are required to have sat and passed the examination before being granted general registration. It is recommended that candidates sit the examination early to prevent delays in being granted general registration.

Request to add or correct a qualification on the National Register

Additional qualifications can now be added to the National Register.

Requirements

- the qualification is an approved qualification for registration or endorsement in psychology (see www.psychologyboard.gov.au) (such as a Master of Psychology), and/or
- the qualification is a doctorate (DPsych, PhD, PsyD or DPhil), and
- an original transcript, testimony or certificate is provided to AHPRA from the university indicating the qualification has been successfully completed.

There is a \$50 application fee to add each qualification to the National Register but no fee applies to correct a qualification already on the register. Access the form under the [registration/forms tab](#).

Board work planning for 2014-15

The Board held its annual planning day in February in conjunction with the February meeting. The Board has identified a number of priorities, and over the coming months will develop a workplan for 2014-15. The workplan will be published on the website as part of the next Health Profession Agreement between AHPRA and the National Board.

Professor Brin Grenyer

Chair

Psychology Board of Australia

07 March 2014