



Communiqué

28 March 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 50th meeting of the Board on 28 March 2014. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

First all Boards meeting - National and Regional Boards Retreat

The Board hosted its first all board meeting – the National and Regional Boards Retreat – on 26 and 27 March 2014 in Sydney. All national and regional board members participated, along with members of the Psychology Council of NSW and senior AHPRA staff.

The retreat focused on the work of the national and regional boards of the Psychology Board of Australia in regulating the psychology profession. The retreat provided an opportunity to reflect on the Board's role, approach to regulation, and key relationships with regional and national partners and the broader context of psychology and the community. The retreat also presented an opportunity to meet and discuss the challenges of the coming year.

Participants heard from AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher on organisational redesign, General Counsel Dominique Saunders on the principles of regulation, and Director, National Boards Services, Chris Robertson on the intergovernmental landscape. The retreat also allowed participants an opportunity to reflect upon the history of regulation and international developments likely to occur over the next 20 years in international mobility and regulatory agreements and processes.

Advertising guidelines: update

Revised *Advertising guidelines* came into effect on 17 March. These are published under *Codes and guidelines* on the Board's website.

The guidelines were developed by the National Boards and explain the requirements of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([National Law](#)) in relation to advertising and the use of testimonials in advertising. The National Law does not allow testimonials to be used when advertising a regulated health service (section 133). A fact sheet has been developed, and revisions to the guidelines is currently being considered to clarify issues with testimonials. As stated in the fact sheet, practitioners are not responsible for removing (or trying to have removed) unsolicited testimonials published on a website or in social media over which they do not have control.

Consultation update

Shortly, the Board will begin public consultation on its general, continuing professional development (CPD) and recency of practice registration standards, and associated guidelines and policies.

Consultation is an important part of the Board's engagement with psychologists and members of the public. Feedback received is greatly valued, and informs the Board's development of registration standards, codes, and guidelines.

To read new and past consultation papers go to the Board's website under the [News](#) tab.

Accreditation of programs

Under section 49 of the National Law, the 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 March meeting, the Board approved APAC-accredited courses from:

- Australian Catholic University
- Bond University
- Edith Cowan University
- James Cook University
- Murdoch University
- Queensland University of Technology
- The University of Sydney
- Swinburne University

An updated list of Board-approved qualifications will soon be published under [Accreditation](#) on the Board's website. An online search for approved psychology courses is currently being developed and will be publicly available soon.

Public forum

The Board will host its next public forum in Melbourne on Thursday 1 May 2014. 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 1 May 2014
Time: 5:00 -7:00pm
Venue: The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Room 201 and 211
2 Clarendon Street, Southbank

RSVP
By: 17 April 2014
Email: psychologyforum@ahpra.gov.au

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
10 April 2014