



# Communiqué

**30 May 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 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board on 30 May 2014. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

## **Public consultation - requirements for general registration, continuing professional development and recency of practice for psychologists**

The Board is reviewing the requirements for general registration, continuing professional development and recency of practice for psychologists.

The Board has published a consultation paper which is open for feedback until 30 June 2014 and is seeking input from the community and the profession on proposals to update the following:

- General registration standard
- Continuing professional development registration standard
- Guidelines for continuing professional development
- Recency of practice registration standard, and
- Policy on recency of practice requirements

The consultation paper is available under [Current consultations](#)

## **Assignment of accreditation function for the psychology profession**

In recent months, the Board has been working towards establishing new arrangements for the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC), based on the 'in-principle' agreement *Future of Accreditation*, reached late last year.

These arrangements have now been finalised and agreed by APAC's three new members - 1. the Australian Psychological Society, 2. the Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association (HODSPA) and 3. a nominee of the Psychology Board of Australia. The Board's member nominee is an individual appointment, and Ms Kaye Frankcom has agreed to take on this important role for the next three years. The three members of APAC will be meeting soon to progress the transition to the new APAC constitution and new APAC Board, anticipated to meet for the first time next month.

Consequently the Psychology Board of Australia has now approved the continuation of the current arrangement of exercising accreditation functions through APAC for a period of four years until 30 June 2018. The Board looks forward to continuing to work with APAC in undertaking our complementary functions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

## **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:

- RMIT University
- University of South Australia
- Victoria University
- Australian Catholic University
- Charles Darwin University
- CQ University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Swinburne University, Open University & Swinburne University Online
- Australian College of Applied Psychology Pty Ltd

An updated list of Board-approved qualifications will soon be published under [Accreditation](#) on the Board's website.

### Advertising guidelines: update

National Boards have acted on the feedback they received about the Guidelines for advertising regulated health services (Advertising guidelines) that were released in March and on 20 May published an update.

The updated Advertising guidelines were edited to make them clearer, particularly about that:

- under the National Law, testimonials are not allowed when advertising a regulated health service
- the obligations of the National Law about advertising only apply when a regulated health service is being advertised, and
- the National Law is not intended to stop members of the community and patients from discussing their experiences online or in person.

National Boards would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the guidelines. Whenever possible, this feedback was taken in to account and used to update the guidelines.

### National Psychology Examination

There have now been three sittings of the National Psychology Examination since it commenced in July 2013. The next date to sit the examination is Friday 22 August 2014 and candidates can enrol through the [examination portal](#).

Upcoming examination dates for 2014: Friday 22 August 2014, and Friday 12 December 2014. The schedule for 2015 will be published in September.

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. 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.

### Statistics

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. The data includes information about types of registration held, principle place of practice, endorsements, registrant age and gender. The Board has also published its latest statistics about Board-approved supervisors. The data includes information

about psychologists who are approved supervisors for internship programs and registrar programs and also national data on psychologists approved for higher degree student placements. Read the latest reports on our [statistics web page](#).

**Professor Brin Grenyer**  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
11 June 2014