



Communiqué

24 July 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 54th meeting of the Board on 24 July 2014. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Consultation update

The Psychology Board of Australia, together with the other 13 National Boards in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme are consulting on the draft '[Guidelines for the regulatory management of registered health practitioners and students infected with blood-borne viruses](#)'.

If you wish to provide comments, please email your submission in Word format to guidelinesconsultation@ahpra.gov.au, marked 'Consultation – Guidelines for the regulatory management of registered health practitioners and students infected with blood-borne viruses' by close of business on 26 September 2014. The Board welcomes your feedback.

Queensland – new arrangements for handling notifications from 1 July 2014

From 1 July 2014 a new law comes in to effect in Queensland, the Health Ombudsman Act 2013. From this date, all complaints about Queensland health practitioners will be received by the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) who will either manage the matters or refer them to the relevant National Board to manage.

Complaints that were made to AHPRA or National Boards before 1 July 2014 will generally continue to be managed by AHPRA on behalf of National Boards. However, under the new law the Office of the Health Ombudsman can request that a matter be referred to them to be managed. If this were to happen, AHPRA will inform both the notifier and the practitioner who is the subject of the notification. For information about the Office of the Health Ombudsman please go to www.oho.qld.gov.au or call 133 646 (133 OHO).

Data access and research policy

AHPRA and National Boards regularly receive requests for access to data about registered practitioners. The [Data access and research policy](#) was developed by AHPRA and National Boards to maximise benefits that data access can bring, while managing risks to the privacy of practitioners whose information we have collected and hold for the purposes of the National Law and other statutory obligations.

Approved programs of study

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 Murdoch 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.

Professor Brin Grenyer

Chair

Psychology Board of Australia

8 August 2014