



# Communiqué

**29 August 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 55<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board on 29 August 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 applications for appointment to the National Psychology Examination Committee**

The Board invites applications from individuals seeking appointment to the National Psychology Examination Committee.

The Board is seeking members of the psychology profession who have experience and knowledge in the core competencies required for general registration in the profession. The committee is comprised of a broad range of individuals, including those with experience in training, teaching, and assessment of professional competencies. Committee members will include psychologists with different areas of practice (practitioners and academics; private and public sector psychologists) and applicants should indicate their area of practice in their application.

Applicants are required to demonstrate expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- ethics and professional issues
- assessment and psychological testing
- interventions
- communications including cross-cultural and diverse groups, and
- multiple-choice test construction (test validation, parallel forms, statistics)

Committee appointments are made by the National Board, under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). Appointments are for up to two years, with eligibility for reappointment, and are expected to commence in January 2015.

The committee meets between 4- 6 times per year over two business days. Meetings are held in Melbourne. The functions of the Committee are to:

- develop the National Psychology Examination multiple-choice questions
- contribute to the development of the National Psychology Examination curriculum
- monitor progress of the examination roll out and operationalisation of the exam across Australia
- review and provide input into drafts of consultations and policy documents

For:

- more information on the role and the application process, please download the application guide and application form on the [Psychology Board website](#), or
- enquiries please contact [boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au)

Your application will be assessed by a selection advisory panel. Applications close **5.00pm AEST on 29 September 2014**.

## **National Scheme combined meeting**

The 14 National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) held their annual combined meeting at the end of August.

Attendees included all National Boards, the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA leadership teams, representatives of state/regional boards, NSW Councils, accreditation authorities, Health

Workforce Australia, members of the Community Reference Group and regulatory colleagues from New Zealand.

The future of the National Scheme was an important highlight of the program, with the key note address delivered by Mr. Kim Snowball the Independent Reviewer for the NRAS three-year review. Mr. Snowball covered the issues and options for reform outlined in the [consultation paper](#) released on 29 August 2014.

### **Meeting with the New Zealand Psychologists Board and Chairs of Regional Boards**

As part of the National Scheme combined meeting, the Board hosted a meeting with representatives from the New Zealand Psychologists Board and Chairs from the Psychology Board of Australia Regional Boards. The agenda covered: regional regulation issues including outcomes from the regional review; Trans-Tasman regulation issues including an update from New Zealand; and considered progress with the International Project on Competence in Psychology.

### **How to add a supervisor type**

Psychologists with general registration who are planning to become supervisors or want to add a supervisor type can apply using the [ABAS-76 application form](#) and provide the required evidence demonstrating that they meet the prescribed requirements.

To check whether you are already a Board approved supervisor, and what types of supervision you have approval to provide, go to [Search for a supervisor](#) and enter your name or registration number and select your principal place of practice (state or territory).

If you want to add or change supervision types as soon as you are eligible for the new supervisor type (and not before), simply apply using the [ABAS-76](#) form.

The Psychology Board of Australia approves supervisors providing supervision in the following pathways:

- 4+2 pathway (principle and secondary supervisors)
- 5+1 pathway (principle and secondary supervisors)
- higher degree students
- working in addition to placements (for higher degree students), and
- the registrar program for area of practice endorsement (principle and secondary supervisors).

For more information on becoming a supervisor or adding a supervisor type, please see the [Board's website](#).

### **Board sets fee for 2014/15**

The Board has announced the national registration fee for psychologists for 2014/15.

The fee has been set at \$431, limiting the increase to the national consumer price index (CPI) of 2.9%. It will apply from 9 September 2014 and cover the registration period for most practitioners of 1 November 2014 to 30 October 2015. The fee for psychologists whose principal place of practice is NSW is \$330.<sup>1</sup>

A fee schedule, including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW, will be published on the [Board's website](#).

More detailed information about the Board's financial operations will be outlined in the Health Profession Agreement between the Board and AHPRA for 2014/15, which will be published on the website soon. This agreement sets out the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide to support the Board to regulate psychology.

### **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 Federation University, La Trobe University, Macquarie University, Monash University, Murdoch University Queensland University of Technology, Southern Cross

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<sup>1</sup> NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction.

University, Swinburne University of Technology, University of Adelaide, University of New England, University of Queensland, University of Southern Queensland, University of Sydney, University of Western Sydney, and Victoria University.

The updated list of Board-approved qualifications will be published soon on the Board's website at: [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx).

**Professor Brin Grenyer**

Chair

Psychology Board of Australia

8 September 2014