



## Communiqué

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**29 May 2015**

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 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board on 29 May 2015.

At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

### **Workforce, education and training reform**

The Board has prioritised a project covering workforce, education and training reform.

The Board is working with the Australian Psychological Society, the Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association, and the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council to consider the future of the psychology education and training model. The Chair's message in the [latest edition of the Psychology Board newsletter](#) outlines some of the key issues.

The Board will provide updates as work progresses.

### **Criminal history and English language skills registration standards have been revised**

The registration standards for criminal history and English language skills have been revised following consultation and have now been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. Both revised standards take effect from 1 July 2015.

#### **Criminal history**

The new criminal history registration standard makes minor amendments to the old standard, which is expected to have minimal impact on practitioners.

When a practitioner first applies for registration, the relevant National Board requires the applicant to declare their criminal history in all countries, including Australia. All registered health practitioners must inform their National Board if they are:

- charged with an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more, or
- convicted or found guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment in Australia and/or overseas.

When practitioners renew their registration they must disclose any changes to their criminal history. The registration standard and associated explanatory information are published on [AHPRA's website](#).

#### **English language skills**

The new registration standard for English language skills applies to all applicants for initial registration, regardless of whether they qualified in Australia or overseas.

The new standard introduces additional pathways for applicants to demonstrate evidence of their English language skills.

The new standard was developed after a review of the existing standard, which included a public consultation. All Boards, except the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia, consulted on and revised their English languages skills standard. The standards are now largely common across professions.

The registration standard and supporting information are published on [AHPRA's website](#).

## Royal Commission

The Board and AHPRA have been following the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sex abuse and its implications for the regulation of health practitioners. The issues raised in the Royal Commission are serious and disturbing.

The Board and AHPRA are committed to learning from the evidence before the Royal Commission and its findings and taking action to make sure our regulatory system is responsive to anyone who has been sexually abused by a registered health practitioner, who comes forward.

If you have a concern about a health practitioner call:

- AHPRA on 1300 419 495
- NSW – 1800 043 159
- Qld – 133 646 (133 OHO).

## Statistics

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. The data includes information about types of registration held, principal place of practice, endorsements, registrant age and gender. Read the latest reports on the [statistics page](#) of the Board's website.

Professor Brin Grenyer  
**Chair**  
**Psychology Board of Australia**

9 June 2015