



Communiqué

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

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 66th meeting of the Board on 28 August 2015. At this meeting the Board farewelled four outgoing members who have provided distinguished leadership on the Board - Geoff Gallas and Gina Geffen, who were foundation members of the Board serving since 2009, and Kathryn Crawley and Trang Thomas who were appointed in 2012. The Board expressed its sincere thanks for their outstanding contributions to the regulation of psychology through their role on the Board.

Call for Expressions of Interest in appointment as an APAC accreditation assessor

The Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) is seeking to appoint people with appropriate experience who are highly committed to its mission to ensure high standards and quality in the education and training of psychologists in Australia. Key selection criteria and how to submit the Expression of Interest can be found on [APAC's website](#).

Call for applications – Queensland Board of the Psychology Board of Australia and the ACT / TAS / VIC Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia

Applications are now sought from psychologists who reside and practice in Queensland to fill vacancies on the **Queensland Board of the Psychology Board of Australia** and from psychologists who reside and practice in Victoria to fill vacancies on the **ACT / TAS / VIC Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia**.

More information about the role and the application process is included in the application form and guide which can be downloaded from www.ahpra.gov.au/National-Boards/Board-member-recruitment.aspx.

For enquiries, email statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au.

Queensland applications close Monday, 7 September 2015.

Victorian applications close Monday, 14 September 2015.

National Psychology Examination – updated reading list

The Board has published an updated Exam Reading List (July 2015) which can be found on the [Board's website](#). The next opportunity to sit the examination is between Friday, 6 November to Friday, 27 November 2015 and candidates can register through the [examination portal](#) from Monday, 7 September to Friday, 23 October 2015.

Consultation update

Public consultation – National Psychology Examination

The Board has published consultation paper 25: *Consultation on ending the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Examination*.

The Board is seeking feedback on the proposal to not extend the exemption for higher degree students beyond 30 June 2016, and to revise the *Guidelines for the National Psychology Exam* accordingly. The Board has recommended various options for transition for higher degree students should the proposal to end the exemption be approved.

The Board is inviting comments on ending the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Exam from all stakeholders. The consultation paper is available on the Board's website under [Current consultations](#). Submissions will be accepted until **Friday 2, October 2015**.

Preliminary consultation – Area of practice endorsement

The Board started a review of its *Area of practice endorsements registration standard* and guideline in 2014.

The proposed revised standard and guideline are currently in the preliminary consultation phase with internal stakeholders to 'road test' the feasibility of proposed changes as well as consider feedback that may be incorporated for public consultation.

Once the Board has reviewed feedback from this preliminary consultation it will be in a position to start public consultation.

Approved programs of study

Under section 49 of the National Law, the Board requires accreditation reports from the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) before approving the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification that will lead to registration. At this meeting the Board approved APAC-accredited courses from University of Wollongong, Federation University Australia and Murdoch University.

The Board also approved the discontinuation of a number of courses across the country in accordance with section 51(2) of the National Law, including courses at Federation University Australia, Murdoch University, La Trobe University and University of Tasmania.

Students currently enrolled in these courses will still have their qualification recognised for registration once they graduate, but there will be no new enrolments for these courses.

National Scheme review report

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council met on 7 August 2015 at the COAG Health Council meeting to consider the final report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The purpose of the independent review was to identify what is working well in the National Scheme and the opportunities to improve and strengthen the operation of the scheme to regulate health professions in the public interest.

Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally.

AHPRA and the National Boards' joint submission to the review is published on the [Corporate publications page](#) of the AHPRA website. More information about the review can be found on the [COAG Health Council](#) website or on [AHPRA's](#) website.

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Chair
Psychology Board of Australia

3 September 2015