



## Communiqué

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### 27 May 2016

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 74<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board on 27 May 2016.

### Call for applications for appointment to the National Board

Applications are now sought for appointment to the Psychology Board of Australia as a practitioner member from Tasmania

All appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) under the National Law. Appointments are for up to three years as decided by the Ministerial Council.

More information about the roles, eligibility requirements and the application process can be found in the information guide and application form available from AHPRA's [Board member recruitment](#) page.

For enquiries, email [statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au).

Applications close **Monday 20 June 2016**.

### Call for applications for appointment to the ACT/TAS/VIC Regional Board

Applications are sought from psychologists who reside and practice in Victoria to fill vacancies on the ACT/TAS/VIC Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia. State, territory and regional boards exercise their functions in the jurisdiction to provide an effective and timely local response to health practitioners and other persons.

More information about the roles, eligibility requirements and the application process can be found in the information guide and application form available from AHPRA's [Board member recruitment](#) page.

For enquiries, email [statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au).

Applications close **Monday 17 June 2016**

### Connections newsletter

The Board has released Issue 16 of Connections newsletter. You can read this in the [Newsletters section](#) of the Board's website.

### Maintaining your Board-approved supervisor status

Board-approved supervisors have a responsibility to maintain and develop their skills as a supervisor on an ongoing basis.

Board-approved supervisors of provisional psychologists and registrars are required to complete an approved supervisor training program at least every five years in order to maintain their approval. All supervisors will be required to complete an approved training program and apply to extend their approval before their supervisor approval expiry date.

## **How do I apply to maintain my supervisor status?**

The application form to maintain approval is: [Application to maintain Board-approved supervisor status - MBAS-76](#). The MBAS-76 is available on the [Forms](#) page of the Board's website. There is no fee for this application.

Supervisors are required to provide evidence of completion of Board-approved supervision training, as follows:

- evidence of completion of one Board-approved master class within five years of the date the last training course was completed (for those who gained Board approval after 1 July 2013), or
- evidence of completion of one Board-approved master class by 30 June 2018 for those holding Board approval on 1 July 2013.

## **How do I know when my approval expiry date is?**

Your supervisor approval expiry date is five years from the date you last completed an approved supervisor training program.

If you transitioned to the National Scheme as an approved supervisor in 2010 and you have not completed a supervisor training program and provided the certificate of completion to AHPRA, your expiry date is 30 June 2018.

To check when your approval is due login to the [AHPRA online services portal](#). Click on Supervisor services and then Supervision information. Your user name and password are the same ones you use when renewing your registration in November each year.

## **If the expiry date of my approval is 30 June 2018, what should I do?**

You have just over two years to complete a Board-approved supervisor training program. The minimum requirement is completion of a one-day master class. For more information on the minimum requirement to maintain Board-approved supervisor status please see the [Supervisor FAQ](#).

Board-approved supervisor training providers are listed on the [Board's website](#) along with the links to the provider's websites that indicate the workshop topics and training dates. You are encouraged to review the available training options and choose the one most appropriate to your needs and CPD learning plan.

There are a large number of supervisors whose expiry date is 30 June 2018. The Board encourages supervisors to enrol in the master class training early and not wait until the deadline is approaching to enrol in the training. This will ensure that you have the widest choice in the provider, the timing and the topic of the master class.

## **What do I do when I have completed the refresher training?**

When you have completed your refresher training you should notify AHPRA by applying to maintain your approval for another five years. The application to maintain Board-approved supervisor status – MBAS-76 is available on the [Forms](#) page of the website. There is no fee for this application. Once the application is approved your Board-approved supervisor expiry date will be extended for another five years from the date you completed your training program.

Please note that the training provider does not notify AHPRA for you – they provide information about how many psychologists have completed training for annual and outcome reports, but not your individual details or certificate of completion.

## **What about area of practice endorsement for higher degree supervisors?**

All applications to become a Board-approved supervisor that are made after 1 July 2013 must meet the new supervisor training requirements as outlined in the [Guidelines for supervisions and supervisor training providers](#). These guidelines require that psychologists who are applying to be a higher degree supervisor to have held endorsement in the relevant approved area of practice for at least two years. For example, if you wish to supervise a psychologist in a Master of Health Psychology program, you must have held an area of practice endorsement in health psychology for two years before obtaining Board-approval as a supervisor in this program.

However, psychologists who were approved as a Board-approved higher degree supervisor before 1 July 2013 do not need to meet these new requirements until they apply to maintain their approval for another five years – no later than 1 July 2018.

In the meantime, these supervisors can continue to supervise students in any area of practice under the Board's transition provisions – provided they have relevant knowledge and experience to provide suitable supervision.

If these higher degree supervisors wish to continue their Board-approved higher degree supervisor status after 1 July 2018 they will need to have been granted an endorsement by **30 June 2016** so that they will meet the two year requirement by 2018.

If you are seeking higher degree supervisors who are approved for any area of practice you can find them using [Search for a Supervisor](#) on the Board's website. Under *Search by pathway and location* select *Higher degree program* but don't select an area of practice, then specify the suburb, postcode and surrounding area to bring up a list of supervisors with approval for any area of practice.

**As this date approaches, the Board encourages those psychologists who fall into this transition provision to ensure they have completed the registrar program and been granted endorsement by the deadline.**

An area of practice endorsement is not required for higher degree supervisors providing supervision to provisional psychologists in the 5+1 pathway, as the 5+1 programs do not provide training in specialised areas of practice and the pathway does not lead to an area of practice endorsement.

#### **More information:**

More information about supervisor training requirements is available on the Board's website under [Requirements for supervisors](#) and on the [supervisor training](#) webpage, which includes links to approved training providers' websites.

To add or remove a supervisor category or make any changes to your supervisor information please contact AHPRA using the [web enquiry form](#).

#### **Family and domestic violence – Queensland and Victoria state reports released**

The Board is committed to being part of the solution to major health and social problems as best we can within our mandate as a regulator of psychologists.

Everyone should feel safe at home. Tragically, many people across Australia face great danger at home from the people closest to them. Family violence can affect anyone, regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity or sexuality and it not only impacts on victims, but also their family, friends and the wider society. Health practitioners who often work closely with families could also be in the right place at the right time to help families who fall victim to such violence.

The Board wants to make psychologists aware of two significant reports recently released on this issue, including one in Queensland and one in Victoria.

The Queensland Government commissioned a special taskforce to conduct an inquiry into domestic and family violence in Queensland. The Taskforce's report '[Not Now Not Ever - putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland](#)' made 140 recommendations to Queensland and national bodies, including three to the National Scheme.

In Victoria, the Royal Commission into Family Violence released its [report and recommendations](#) on how Victoria's response to family violence can be improved. The Commission's 227 recommendations are directed at improving the foundations of the current system, seizing opportunities to transform the way that we respond to family violence, and building the structures that will guide and oversee a long-term reform program that deals with all aspects of family violence. Though there were no specific recommendations directed towards AHPRA or National Boards, several referenced the important role the health system and health professional bodies have to play in influencing child safeguarding and in improving the accreditation and training for health practitioners in this area.

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

02 June 2016