



Communiqué

24 June 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 75th meeting of the Board on 24 June 2016.

Review of accreditation standards for psychology programs

The [Australian Psychology Accreditation Council \(APAC\)](#) has released for public consultation proposed *Accreditation standards for psychology programs incorporating the graduate competencies*.

APAC have spent some time on this project, gathering input from a variety of stakeholders. As part of this project, APAC also retained the services of consultants who have worked extensively in the field, notably with other Health Professions Accreditation Councils.

The consultation paper and associated material is published on [APAC's website](#) and submissions will be accepted until 15th July 2016.

After considering the feedback a final version of the standards will be submitted to the Board for approval as required under the National Law.

Report on supervisor training

A review and analysis of the Board's approved supervisor training program, which has been in place for more than two years, has recently been finalised.

Overall, the review indicates the supervisor training program has been working well. The program is of high quality and standard, and meets the requirement to train supervisors in the public interest.

Psychologists are engaged with both updating their supervisor training to maintain board approved supervisor status, and undertaking training in supervision to become a supervisor for the first time.

There continues to be sufficient numbers of training workshops offered across the country for the current training needs and these workshops have been well-received and highly rated by participants.

The number and location of workshops planned for 2016 is higher than the number delivered in 2015, indicating the supervisor training program is continuing to grow. As a whole, the supervisor training providers seem to be bedding down their processes and moving from new programs to a 'business as usual' model.

The full report will be published in the next edition of the Board's newsletter.

International Project on Competence in Psychology - The Declaration and final report

At the 5th International Congress on Licensure, Certification and Credentialing of Psychologists it was decided to continue the development of "a global agreement on identifying the benchmark competencies that define professional psychology".

The project was named the "International Project on Competence in Psychology" (IPCP). A core working group of 10 individuals from around the world was established, including Steve Osborne from New Zealand. A broader (global) reference group/network of more than 250 interested parties was also established.

After three years of work and broad consultation, the *International Declaration on Competences in Professional Psychology* along with a final report has been published – these documents can be downloaded at www.psykologforeningen.no/foreningen/english/ipcp.

The Declaration identifies a set of internationally recognised and endorsed competences that can serve as the foundation for a coherent global professional identity and possibly an international recognition system for equating professional preparation systems, program accreditation, professional credentialing, and regulation of professional competence and conduct.

The Declaration will be formally launched at the International Congress of Psychology in Yokohama in July 2016. The International Association of Applied Psychology and International Union of Psychological Science will also decide if they will endorse or adopt the Declaration as part of their official meetings in Yokohama.

Consultation update - guidelines for transitional programs

The Board has agreed to develop and consult on new guidelines for transitional programs for overseas-trained applicants for psychology registration.

Currently, information about the requirements of the transitional program is published on the Board's website as the in the *Policy for overseas qualified applicants for registration* has been retired.

Public consultation will start soon.

Orientation guide to the National Psychology Examination

The Board has prepared an orientation guide to assist candidates to prepare for the National Psychology Examination (the exam). It is to be read alongside the exam curriculum and the reading list, and is designed to orient candidates to the format, purpose and content of the exam, and to guide them in developing a study plan. The orientation guide will be published on the Board's website to coincide with the beginning of the next examination period Friday 4 – Friday 25 November 2016 (registrations open 12 September 2016).

For more information on the exam guidelines, curriculum, reading list, policies and forms, please refer to the [Board's website](#)

National Restrictions Library

Restrictions (conditions and undertakings) are a primary regulatory tool used to protect the public. Regulators place restrictions on registration as necessary in the course of an investigation and/or disciplinary procedure or as a result of a disciplinary procedure. Restrictions may also be imposed at the time of registration or renewal of registration, for various reasons.

A National Restrictions Library has been developed to provide a consolidated structure for common restrictions used across the regulatory functions of all of the National Boards and to support:

- consistency in recommendations from AHPRA to the National Boards and delegates
- consistency in the restrictions appearing on the national public register of health practitioners, and
- a best practice approach to monitoring compliance with restrictions.

More information about the National Restrictions Library, including a copy of the contents, can be found on [AHPRA's website](#).

National awareness campaign

The third and final phase of AHPRA's national awareness campaign is underway.

Under the headline of [Safe in the knowledge](#), the phase targets the public to increase awareness of the [national register of health practitioners](#) and encourages them to check it before visiting their practitioner.

The AHPRA website has been updated with additional information on what the public can do if a practitioner can't be found on the register.

As part of the campaign, employers of health practitioners have been urged to understand their obligations while practitioners have also been encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners.

Registration data

Read the latest report and other statistics on the Board's [statistics page](#).

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia

11 July 2016