



Communiqué

26 August 2016

The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law), as in force in each state and territory. 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 77th meeting of the Board on 26 August 2016.

Call for applications for appointment to the ACT/Tas/Vic Regional Board and health, performance and professional standards hearing panels

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. Appointments are made by the Victorian Minister for Health under the National Law. Appointments are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment.

Applications are also sought from psychologists who reside and practice in Victoria to fill vacancies on the health, performance and professional standards hearing panels. Under the National Law, a National Board convenes health panels and performance and professional standards panels when required to hold hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters for individual registered health professionals. Appointments to the list of approved persons for appointment to panels are for up to three years, with eligibility for re-appointment, these appointments are made by the Psychology Board of Australia.

For more information about the role and the application process for board and panel members please visit <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/National-Boards/Board-member-recruitment.aspx> and select one or both vacancy options on the application form.

For enquiries, email statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au

Applications close **Monday 12 September 2016**.

Education and training reform

Earlier this month the Board along with the Australian Psychology Society (APS), the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) and the Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association (HODSPA), met to further discuss proposals and options for reform of the psychology education and training model.

The joint communiqué from the workgroup is at Attachment A.

Sydney public forum

The Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia, Professor Brin Grenyer, invites you to attend a public forum to be held on Thursday 29 September 2016 in Sydney to discuss contemporary issues in psychology practice.

Members of the Psychology Board of Australia will present on a number of topics, using illustrative case studies where relevant, followed by an open discussion with members of the profession and students.

Topics include:

- current issues in psychology regulation and workforce reform, including specialist title and expanding scopes of practice, reform of training models and international benchmarks
- social media and online communication with clients, including issues in e-therapy; advertising your practice and how to represent your title, qualifications and services to others
- the complexity of private practice including pitfalls in entering into contracts with others, issues in billing and communication, principles of confidentiality when balancing duty to employers, employees and the psycho-legal context, and
- reconciliation action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, cultural competencies and curriculum developments in psychology.

Further details on the event can be found [here](#).

Top tips for using the register

The [register of practitioners](#) is core to the work of AHPRA and the National Boards because it provides up-to-date information about every registered health practitioner, including physiotherapists. To help the public and employers get the most out of the register, we have developed [these tips](#). In particular, the tips remind anyone responsible for recruiting health practitioners how to use the register to verify a practitioner's registration status.

National Boards and AHPRA host research summit

The 2016 Research Summit hosted by the 14 National Boards and AHPRA was attended by more than 220 delegates who gathered together to talk about the next frontier for developing our partnership's evidence-base to improve the way we regulate.

The theme of the summit was '*patient safety through risk-based regulation*', and presenters discussed a range of topics. At the heart of the discussion was how to contribute to safer care for patients and health consumers. Also discussed was how data collection and evaluation can help find new and innovative ways to improve regulatory processes for health practitioners and the public.

The inaugural summit provided an opportunity for the exchange of expertise and ideas between regulatory staff, experts in safety and quality in healthcare, health practitioners and leading health and medical researchers.

Read more in the [media release](#) about the summit which was held on 25 August.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme 2016 combined meeting

The Board meeting was held to coincide with the annual National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting where entities within the scheme got together to discuss the focus for the next 12 months.

Vale Professor Trevor Waring AM (1945-2016)

The Board is deeply saddened at the passing of Trevor Waring on 13 August 2016. Professor Waring was a clinical psychologist who contributed to his clients and the profession for over 40 years. In 2004 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his outstanding work in mental health and psychology.

He served on the NSW Psychologists Registration Board for 14 years, with 11 years as President, and was Head of the Council of Psychologists Registration Boards for 4 years. He was a foundation member (with 6 years as Chair) of the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council serving up until December 2015. He was the recipient of the 2011 APS President's Award for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology. From 2004 - 2012 he was Chancellor of the University of Newcastle.

Trevor was an outstanding leader and those who knew him will recall his sense of good humour and enjoyment of life, and the pride he had in his family and those who worked closely with him. The Board acknowledges his outstanding contribution to the registration and accreditation of psychologists in Australia, and his broader contribution to the community which he served.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
06 September 2016

Attachment:
Communiqué - psychology education and training model – progress update August 2016

Reviewing the psychology education and training model

Preparing psychologists for practice and sustaining a skilled psychologist workforce for
the future needs of the public

Communiqué

August 2016

Reviewing the psychology education and training model – **progress update**

Over the past year, representatives from the Australian Psychological Society, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council, Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association and the Psychology Board of Australia (the *Collaborative Working Party*) have been working together to review the psychology education and training model.

The starting point for the review was the national psychology education forum held late last year in Canberra. This forum brought together leaders across government, education, workforce, regulation and the profession.

Two summary outcomes have been published on the working party - in the 18 December 2015 PsyBA Communiqué and the 29 April 2016 PsyBA Communiqué.

www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Communiques.aspx.

On 11 August 2016 the Board along with the APS, APAC and HODSPA met to further discuss proposals and options for reform of the psychology education and training model.

The working party reaffirmed its commitment to retire the 4+2 internship program as a pathway to registration. This will be done in a progressive manner to allow for appropriate transition to a proposed new model.

In considering options to replace the 4+2 pathway, the working party discussed a number of associated issues including capacity and availability of 5+1 programs, continuing to ensure flexibility of pathways to registration, bridging pathways to Areas of Practise Endorsement and continued availability of placements.

The working party also considered the development of the new APAC guidelines and how the updated guidelines will encourage innovation and competency based approaches to future training models.

The working party has agreed to meet again in October 2016 to continue to refine the options for future reform. In the interim, members have committed to undertake further work and analysis in a number of areas including:

- funding of placements and availability
- funding of Higher education programs
- developing profiles of jurisdictions and workforce requirements
- further consultation with stakeholders
- timeframes for transition