



Communiqué

30 September 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 78th meeting of the Board on 30 September 2016.

Sydney public forum

On Thursday 29 September 2016 the Board was pleased to welcome over 250 members of the profession and students to a public forum in Sydney.

Members of the Board presented on a number of topics, including:

- psychology regulation and workforce reform
- online communications with clients
- the complexities of private practice, and
- reconciliation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

A presentation of the slides and audio from the event will be available on the [Communiqués](#) section of the website soon.

Renew registration online now

The Board has launched its 2016 renewal of registration campaign for psychologists. The registration renewal date for psychologists with general or non-practising registration is 30 November 2016. The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is [online](#).

You should read the Board's [registration standards](#) carefully before applying to renew, as information in support of declarations made in an application could be requested.

Renewal applications received during December will incur a late payment fee. Under the National Law practitioners who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the [Register of Practitioners](#). Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise psychology in Australia. A fast-track application can be made (only during January), however the practitioner cannot practise until the application is processed and the register is updated.

AHPRA has sent renewal reminders to psychologists who have provided an email address. To update your contact details visit the Board's website and use the appropriate link under '[Access online services](#)' in the Practitioner tab. A user ID and secure password is necessary. If you have forgotten your user ID you can complete a web enquiry form. Select '[Online Services - Practitioner](#)' as the category type.

A [renewal FAQ](#) is available on the Board's website.

Call for applications for appointment to the National Psychology Examination Committee

The Board invites applications from experienced psychologists seeking appointment to the National Psychology Examination Committee (NPE Committee).

The Board is seeking members of the psychology profession who have experience and knowledge in the core competencies required for general registration in the profession, including experience in training, teaching, and assessment of professional competencies.

Expertise is required in the following areas:

- ethics and professional issues
- assessment and psychological testing
- interventions
- communications including cross-cultural and diverse groups, and
- multiple-choice test construction (test validation, parallel forms, statistics)

Committee appointments are made by the Board, under the National Law. Members include psychologists with different areas of practice (practitioners and academics; private and public sector psychologists).

The NPE Committee consists of nine senior members of the psychology profession and includes members of the Board and members appointed through an expression of interest process. Appointments are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment. New appointments are expected to start in January 2017.

The functions of the NPE Committee are to develop the National Psychology Examination multiple-choice questions and to contribute to policy and curriculum frameworks and the development of resources (such as the reading list and NPE orientation guide).

The Committee meets in Melbourne between four – six times per year over two business days.

For more information on the role and the application process, please download the application guide and application form from the [vacancies page](#) on the Board website, or email boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au.

Your application will be assessed by a selection advisory panel.

Applications close **5.00pm AEST on 7 November 2016**.

Supervisor training providers invited to apply to the Board for approval

The Board has determined to hold a mid-cycle expression of interest (EOI) process for individuals and organisations interested in becoming Board approved providers of supervisor training of master class training only. Approval is to be granted until 2018 to align with the current 2013-2018 approval cycle.

The recent annual review of the supervisor training program indicates that there are a sufficient number of workshops and Board-approved supervisor training providers for the full training (component 1, 2 and 3). However, there are around 8000 Board-approved supervisors (BAS) who transitioned and became BAS in 2013. All Board approved supervisors are required to update their training every five years by doing a master class (at minimum). The 2013 cohort of BAS will need to refresh their training by June 2018.

In order to manage a potential shortfall of master class training workshops and providers for BAS who require refresher training by 2018, the Board has determined to hold an EOI for Board-approved training providers mid-approval cycle (i.e. before 2018).

In 2013, the Board introduced a competency-based training framework for supervisors to ensure provisional psychologists and psychologists receive quality supervision that is consistent with the Board's standards. More information about the framework and the requirements for the training is available in the [Guideline for supervisors and supervisor training providers](#).

Individuals and organisations (applicants) interested in becoming a Board-approved training provider may apply for approval to provide one or more master classes by using the application pack above.

The Board is committed to ensuring national coverage of workshop delivery in both metropolitan and regional areas, and is particularly interested in applicants who are located in regional areas, and applicants who can deliver workshops in regional locations.

For the purpose of fairness and transparency, all individual questions and the answers provided will be made available to all applicants. All questions and the answers will be published on the Board's website seven days after the close of the allocated question time. Applicants may submit requests for additional information or clarification up to 17 days after the release of the application (i.e. 21 October 2016).

The Board will assess and approve applicants based on their:

- ability to meet Board standards and requirements of the guideline, and
- the selection criteria in the [application pack](#).

Multiple training providers may be selected to facilitate delivery of supervisor training nationally (in both urban and regional areas) and ensure a complete range of training components.

Applications close on **10 November 2016**.

Proposed standards for accreditation of psychology programs

The Board was pleased to receive the proposed standards for accreditation of psychology programs from the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) on 19 September 2016. APAC is appointed as an external accreditation entity under the National Law and one of its functions is to develop accreditation standards and recommend them to the Board for approval.

Accreditation standards are used to assess whether a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, provides graduates of the program with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to practise the profession.

The Board will consider the proposed standards and accompanying documentation submitted by APAC in the coming weeks. In considering the submission the Board must be satisfied that the standards:

- take into account the objectives and guiding principles of the National Law at Section 3
- have been developed following a period of wide-ranging consultation and developed with stakeholder input
- take into account relevant Australian and international standards and benchmarks related to education and training, and
- take into account the COAG principles for best practice regulation

Area of practice endorsement

The Board completed public consultation on proposed revisions to the registration standard and guideline for area of practice endorsements in March 2016. The consultation paper and submissions received are available under [Past consultations](#).

The consultation submissions highlighted areas where further work was necessary and this work has been progressing well. The Board plans to submit a proposed revised registration standard for area of practice endorsements to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council in 2017.

The Board also plans to undertake further work on area of practice endorsements and area of practice competencies in the future, taking into account the anticipated new accreditation standards for psychology programs and reforms to the education and training pathways for psychologists.

Transitional programs

The Board completed public consultation on a proposed guideline for transitional programs in September. The consultation paper and submissions received are available under [Past consultations](#).

The Board has been working to finalise the new guideline, taking consultation feedback into account, and plans to publish the new guideline soon.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
18 October 2016