

Communiqué

25 November 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 80th meeting of the Board on 25 November 2016.

Planning for 2017/18

The Board has started its planning for the 2017/18 year. Themes considered by the Board included education and training reform, analysis of high risks in psychology practice and possible responses, reconciliation action planning, international benchmarking and workforce development.

2015/16 National Scheme annual report

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their 2015/16 annual report on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme), providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2016.

The annual report provides a national snapshot of the work and finances of the National Scheme and is tabled in the parliaments of each state and territory and the Commonwealth.

For the psychology profession, the report reveals that:

- 33,097 practitioners were registered at the end of June 2016, an increase of 2.9 per cent from the previous year
- there were 528 notifications received nationally about psychologists (including the HPCA in NSW). This represents an increase of 22.2% from last year
- on a national basis, the percentage of registered health practitioners with notifications received during the year was 1.5%
- the percentage of all registered psychologists with notifications received was 1.6%, which is 0.1% higher than the national percentage across all registered professions
- there were 83 new complaints about possible statutory offences relating to psychology this year. These complaints constitute 6.2% of all statutory offence matters received in 2015/16. Almost all new matters related to title protection or advertising concerns and
- the annual report is published on the [AHPRA website](#). It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Psychology Board of Australia.

Revised registration standard for recency of practice

The revised standard and policy for recency of practice and a revised policy for recency of practice requirements will both come into effect on 1 December 2016 and will replace the standard and policy that are currently in place. This standard will apply to all registered psychologists except those with non-practising registration. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standards by the time they renew their registration in 2017. Read more in the Board's [news item](#).

Renewal of registration - late applications

The renewal of registration period ended on 30 November 2016. 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 Psychologists. 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 national 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 'Online services for practitioners'. 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.

Newsletter

The Board has released Issue 18 of Connections newsletter. You can read it on the [Board's website](#).

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for psychologists on its website at <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/> . For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Scheme also refer to information published on www.ahpra.gov.au or send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
01 December 2016