

## Communiqué

24 February 2017

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 82nd meeting of the Board on 24 February 2017.

### New Board-approved supervisor training programs available

The Board has now approved six new providers of master class training. The Board was particularly pleased to approve a number of new supervisor training providers who are offering training programs in regional areas.

The Board introduced a supervisor training framework in 2013 that is consistent with best-practice regulation, consistent with the Board's standards, and takes a competency-based approach. The aim is to ensure that psychologists and provisional psychologists receive quality supervision, and the public receive quality psychological services.

The Board has approved the following new supervisor training programs (master class only):

Name of provider	Master class	Location
<b>Australian College of Applied Psychology</b>	Supervising for clinical psychology endorsement Supervising to prevent and manage problems of professional competence Supervising the development of case conceptualisation and diagnosis competencies Supervising the development of meta-competencies Reflective practice and the scientist-practitioner mindset	Adelaide Brisbane Melbourne Perth Sydney Regional NSW and VIC (Ballarat and Central Coast) Videoconference Master classes for regional and remotely based supervisors
<b>C-BEST</b> (Competency-Based Excellence in Supervisor Training)	Reflective practitioner and scientist practitioner meta competencies  Best practice in CBT supervision: A competency-based approach  Best practice in assessment and evaluation in supervision	Adelaide Brisbane Hobart Melbourne Sydney Cairns Newcastle
<b>SPOT</b> (Specialist Psychological Outreach Team)	Advanced clinical supervision: Translating professional competencies into client outcomes	Albany Broome Bunbury Geraldton Kalgoorlie
<b>University of Canberra</b>	Developing and maintaining strong	Canberra

	supervisory relationships	
<b>University of Melbourne</b>	Process and complexity in specialist supervision	Melbourne Shepparton
<b>James Cook University /Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health</b>	Supervising for ethical practice in a rural and remote setting Critical reflection and planning for feedback in supervision	Cairns Emerald Longreach Mackay Mount Isa Rockhampton Townsville

### Revised registration standard for provisional registration

The Board is pleased to advise that the revised registration standard for provisional registration has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council and will come into effect on 1 June 2017. An advance copy of the revised registration standard will shortly be published on the [Board's website](#).

The standard has been revised following wide-ranging consultation with key stakeholders including government, the profession and the public. This review of the standard focussed on clarifying existing requirements and producing a clearly set out and easy to understand standard.

Applications for provisional registration will be assessed under the revised standard from 1 June 2017.

There have been minimal changes to the key requirements for provisional registration so there will be minimal impact applicants for provisional registration. The minimum qualification is still a four year accredited sequence of study in psychology (or overseas equivalent). The four training pathways leading to general registration have been retained.

Current provisional psychologists will not be affected by the changes to the standard however, 4+2 pathway provisional psychologists will be affected by a revised supporting guideline (see below).

### Revised guidelines for the 4+2 internship program

The Board's revised guidelines for the 4+2 internship program will be implemented together with the revised provisional standard on 1 June 2017. An advance copy of the revised guideline will shortly be published on the [Board's website](#).

The guidelines have been revised following wide-ranging consultation and the new 4+2 is an outcome-focussed, competency based internship within a structured practice framework. There is an increased focus on the role of the supervisor and supervisor-based assessment with light-touch oversight by the Board.

New applications for approval of a 4+2 internship program plan will be assessed under the revised guideline from 1 June 2017.

There will be a transition period from 1 June to 1 September 2017. During this time applicants for general registration via the 4+2 pathway will be accepted if they have met either the old requirements in the interim guideline (2013 version) or the new requirements in the revised guidelines (2017 version).

From 1 September 2017 all applicants for general registration via the 4+2 pathway must have met the requirements of the revised guidelines.

Further information to support the transition will be published soon; this will include detail of how case studies and other tasks already completed will be recognised towards the new internship.

The Board will also be emailing current 4+2 pathway provisional psychologists and their supervisors to ensure they are aware of the changes and how they may be affected.

## Guideline for transitional programs

The Board has approved a new guideline for transitional programs for overseas qualified applicants. The new guideline will be published shortly on the [Board's website](#).

The new guideline does not introduce any changes to the requirements for the transitional program; rather it provides clearer information about existing requirements. Therefore advance notice of the new guideline is not necessary and it will take effect from the date it is published.

The new guideline provides more detailed information about the skills and knowledge to be demonstrated in the transitional program and about eligibility for exemption from the program. This will help to address feedback from key stakeholders about a need for this information to be provided.

## Submission from Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)

The Board recently received a supplementary submission from APAC in relation to its process for developing revised accreditation standards for the psychology profession. The submission included comparisons with the 2010 standards and international and national competencies and curriculum, an analysis of stakeholder feedback, transition plans and case studies of how the new standards will be enforced. The Board received a presentation on the submission at its meeting and will be providing advice to APAC following this submission.

## National Scheme news

### Local insights, National Scheme: State and territory summaries published

Individual annual report summaries for each state and territory, offering insights into how the National Scheme is operating in each jurisdiction, have now been published.

Based on the AHPRA and National Boards annual report for 2015/16, the summaries are available online on [AHPRA's website](#).

Information includes applications for registration by profession, outcomes of criminal history checks and segmentation of the registrant base by gender, profession and specialty.

Notifications information includes the number of complaints or concerns received by AHPRA by profession, types of complaint, matters involving immediate action, monitoring and compliance, panels and tribunals, and statutory offence complaints.

To download any or all of the state and territory reports, or to view the main 2015/16 annual report, [visit our microsite](#).

### AHPRA Performance Report July-September 2016

The July to September 2016 quarterly performance reports for AHPRA and the National Boards are now available.

The reports, which are part of an ongoing drive by AHPRA and the National Boards to increase their accountability and transparency, include data specific to each state and territory.

Each report covers AHPRA and the National Boards' main areas of activity:

- managing applications for registration as a health practitioner
- managing notifications about the health, performance and conduct of registered health practitioners and offences against the National Law, and
- monitoring health practitioners and students with restrictions on their registration.

The reports are available on the [Statistics page](#).

To provide feedback on the reports please email: [reportingfeedback@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:reportingfeedback@ahpra.gov.au).

## Health workforce dataset released

AHPRA in conjunction with the National Boards is responsible for the national registration process for 14 health professions. A subset of data from this annual registration process, together with data from a workforce survey that is voluntarily completed at the time of registration, forms the National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS).

The NHWDS includes demographic and professional practise information for registered health professionals and is de-identified before it can be made publically available.

The NHWDS Allied Health 2015 data has recently been released as a series of fact sheets on each allied health profession, and on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners across all allied health professions - the NHWDS Allied Health Fact Sheets 2015. They were published on a new look website – [the Health Workforce Data website](#) – by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The fact sheets present information specific to each profession, such as information relating to scope of practice, specialties and endorsements where applicable.

Aggregate data is also accessible via the [Health Workforce Data Online Data Tool \(ODT\)](#).

The data include is generated through workforce surveys, which are provided by AHPRA on behalf of the Department of Health to all health professionals as part of their yearly re-registration. Each survey is slightly different and is tailored to obtain data specific to that profession.

You can find the factsheet on psychology [here](#).

## 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](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) or send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

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