



Communiqué

31 March 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 83rd meeting of the Board on 31 March 2017.

Call for expressions of interest to serve as a Director on the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

The Board is now calling for expressions of interest to fill an upcoming vacancy as the Psychology Board of Australia Director nominee to the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) Board.

The Psychology Board of Australia nominates four Directors (three psychologists and one non-psychologist community member with expertise in law) to sit on the APAC Board. The current call for expressions of interest is open to psychologists only. The term of appointment is three years, with eligibility for reappointment for one further term. The APAC Board meets approximately six times a year, mostly in Melbourne, although other meetings both face-to-face and by teleconference may be held.

To express interest applicants should send a curriculum vitae (including the contact details of two referees) and a cover letter that addresses how the candidate demonstrates the attributes and competencies required of an APAC director (see table below) to: Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia, at psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au.

The APAC Board has a total of 12 Directors. The Australian Psychological Society (APS) and Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association (HODSPA) nominate four persons each by their own separate processes.

Expressions of interest close **5.00pm AEDT on Monday 01 May 2017**.

APAC Director- Attributes and Competencies	
Internal	External
A solid and current knowledge of the APAC accreditation standards and the accreditation processes employed by APAC.	A strong understanding of the role and legal responsibilities of a company director.
A commitment and focus on protecting and improving the quality of education and training of psychologists in Australia.	A strategic approach, including skills in strategic planning within relevant and current contexts.
Sound understanding of the relevant sections of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (especially Divisions 2 and 3).	The ability to apply business judgement to decision-making.
The commitment and ability to devote time to Board matters and be involved in the work of committees.	The ability to represent the APAC Board to external bodies or committees.

Significant experience and knowledge of the higher education sector, especially regarding the discipline and profession of psychology.	The ability to work constructively as part of a team governing the strategic direction of a company such as APAC.
A genuine interest in and a commitment to achieving the highest standards of psychological skills and expertise among Australia practitioners.	Be prepared to participate in director training as recommended and supported by APAC, once appointed.

Appointments to the fourth National Psychology Exam Committee

The Board has recently undertaken a re-appointment process for the fourth term of the National Psychology Exam Committee (NPE Committee). NPE Committee appointments are made by the Board, under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board has appointed the following nine members to the NPE Committee for a period of two years:

- Melissa Davis
- Gerard Fogarty
- Brin Grenyer (National Board member)
- Vanessa Hamilton (National Board member)
- Rachel Phillips (National Board member)
- Robert Schweitzer
- Jenn Scott (National Board Member)
- Alison Soutter ,and
- Haydn Till

The Board has implemented a national psychology exam to support applications for general registration, as outlined in the Board's *General registration standard*. The role of the National Psychology Exam Committee (NPE Committee) is to provide advice to the Board on the development of the national exam for the measurement of a minimum level of applied professional knowledge of psychology to obtain general registration.

The functions of the NPE Committee are to develop the national psychology exam multiple-choice questions and to contribute to policy and curriculum frameworks and the development of resources (such as the reading list).

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. NPE Committee members 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 in psychology.

The Board thanks outgoing members Janet Stephenson and Radek Stratil for their excellent contribution to the Committee over the past six years. The Board also welcomes the new members of the NPE Committee- Melissa Davis, Vanessa Hamilton and Jenn Scott.

Revised 4+2 internship guidelines

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 has been published on the [Board's website](#).

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

The Board has approved a three month transition period (1 June to 1 September) for current 4+2 internships, allowing general registration applications via the 4+2 pathway to be accepted if they have met either the old requirements (under the interim guidelines published in 2013). From 1 September 2017, all applicants for general registration via the 4+2 pathway must have met the requirements in the revised guidelines.

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

Further information to support the transition; including detail of how case studies and other tasks already completed will be recognised towards the new internship, has been published on the [Board's website](#). Advance copies of revised forms and supporting tools and templates have been and will continue to be added to this web page in the lead up to 1 June 2017.

National Scheme news

New accreditation publications about costs and international accreditation systems

Two new papers have been published about key aspects of the accreditation functions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The papers provide a new analysis of accreditation costs and an international comparison of accreditation systems for registered health professions in comparable health systems.

To read more about the papers, visit the [news item](#) on the AHPRA website.

COAG Health Council Meeting Communiqué

The Federal and state and territory Health Ministers met in Melbourne on 24 March 2017 at the [COAG Health Council](#) to discuss a range of national health issues. The meeting was chaired by the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon Jill Hennessy. AHPRA CEO attended the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Council) meeting which brings together all Health Ministers throughout Australia to provide oversight for the work of the National Scheme. AHPRA and National Boards provide a regular update to the Council on our work.

This meeting had a particular focus on the progress of amendments to the National Law which among other things will pave the way for the registration of paramedics from 2018 and a call for expressions of interest and nominations for first appointments to the National Board prior to this. Ministers also discussed further amendments to the National Law to increase the penalties for people holding out as registered practitioners.

The Council produces a Communiqué from its meeting which can be accessed on [AHPRA'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
12 April 2017