



Communiqué

27 October 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 90th meeting of the Board on 27 October 2017.

Update on the area of practice endorsement consultation

In early 2016, the Board consulted on proposed revisions to the area of practice endorsement (AoPE) registration standard and guideline. Now that APAC's review of the accreditation standards is complete, the Board is resuming work on this review. The Board postponed the review until the standards were finalised as it was keen to ensure the guidelines aligned with the new standards, which for the first time include standards for programs leading to endorsement.

The Board received a large number of submissions, demonstrating significant interest in the areas of practice endorsement by the profession both nationally and internationally. The feedback indicates that the Board needs to engage in a larger, more comprehensive review process to define and delineate the competencies related to each area of practice. Such a review will take a significant amount of time and resourcing to plan, research, collaborate with stakeholders on, and implement. The Board recognises this initiative as part of its broader education and training reform agenda.

In the meantime, the Board intends to take immediate steps to improve the area of practice endorsement registration standards and guidelines following the scope outlined in its 2016 consultation paper. The Board also intends to align the guidelines and area of practice competencies with the new accreditation standards. The consultation paper and stakeholder submissions can be reviewed on the Board's website under [Past consultations](#).

The Board will shortly be submitting the revised registration standard to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. Once approved, the Board will be able to finalise the revised standard and guidelines. The Board will consider the submissions it has received in this review in scoping the next major review of area of practice endorsements.

Quarterly registration data

The Board has released the latest registration data report for the psychology profession, which shows that there are now 35,035 psychologists nationally. The report, which also includes data on area of practice endorsements and Board-approved Supervisors, is published on the [Boards' website](#).

Renewal of registration

Psychologists have until 30 November to renew their registration on time.

When completing renewal this year, psychologists will be asked to check that their qualification(s) are recorded correctly on the register. This extra step will help us to maintain the integrity of the national register, which helps to protect the public.

Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. This is outlined in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([the National Law](#)). A [fees schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

Psychologists, whose application for general registration is received on time or during the following one-month late period, can continue practising while their application is processed. Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2017 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [Register of Psychologists](#) and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia.

National Scheme news

National regulation of paramedicine moves a step closer

The national regulation of paramedicine moves a step closer with the [appointment of the first Paramedicine Board of Australia](#).

The Health Ministers made the announcement of the nine-person board at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council meeting held on 19 October 2017. Paramedicine will be the first profession to be regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) since 2012.

Registration of paramedicine is due to start in late 2018. Paramedics will be able to register once and practise anywhere in Australia. The title 'paramedic' will also become a 'protected title' – only people registered with the Board will be able to call themselves a paramedic.

More information, including news about the [implementation of the regulation of paramedics](#) and the [newly appointed Board members](#), is available on the Paramedicine Board of Australia's website.

National Boards approve policy for removing reprimands from the national register

A policy to ensure consistent removal of reprimands from the national register of practitioners has been approved by all National Boards.

Reprimands on a practitioner's registration can be imposed under the National Law by a performance or professional standards panel, professional standards committee (New South Wales), and a relevant tribunal or court.

The policy will ensure that reprimands are removed from the [national register](#) in a consistent and effective way. It also allows for the removal of reprimands imposed under previous legislation to be considered on an individual basis, consistent with removal powers under that legislation.

A reprimand imposed under the National Law will be removed from the national register on the publication end date set by the relevant panel, committee, court or tribunal. Where a panel or tribunal has not set a publication end date, or where the reprimand was imposed under previous legislation, the reprimand will be removed no earlier than five years from the date of initial publication.

This is subject to:

- the practitioner making an application for removal of the reprimand
- no relevant event having occurred in the five-year period of publication of the reprimand, and
- legal advice confirming the power to remove a reprimand imposed under previous legislation.

A relevant event is any health, performance or conduct notification, action taken against the practitioner in relation to an adverse disclosure on renewal of registration, new information returned on a criminal history check or a confirmed breach of restrictions. It also includes when action has been taken against a practitioner regarding their conduct, health or performance. New notifications, irrespective of whether action was taken, will also be taken into account if an application for removal of a reprimand is received after the five-year period of publication.

The policy took effect on 2 October 2017 and will be reviewed annually. An application form for removal of a reprimand from the national register will be published under [Common forms](#) on the AHPRA 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
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