



Communiqué

23 February 2018

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 93rd meeting of the Board on 23 February 2018.

BAS reminder

Psychologists who transitioned to the National Scheme as an approved supervisor or became a Board-approved supervisor before July 2013 are approaching the end of their five-year approval term (unless they have already renewed their supervisor status). The Board has allowed five years for this cohort of supervisors to meet the refresher training requirements. Those who do not complete refresher training by 30 June 2018 and apply to AHPRA to maintain supervisor status will have their name removed from the [list of Board-approved supervisors](#). Any supervision they provide after this will not be recognised by the Board as suitable supervision in the various pathways to registration or endorsement. To reinstate supervisor status after it has lapsed will require the completion of a full supervisor training program.

There are 17 Board-approved providers of master class (refresher) training across Australia. Very high demand is expected in the next few months, so supervisors will need to act quickly to ensure the best chance of securing their preferred provider, location, and master class topic. For more information including training schedules please contact Board-approved providers (the Board cannot provide this information but it has published a list of training provider contact details on its [Supervisor training](#) web page). Once you have completed refresher training you must then apply to maintain Board-approval using the MBAS-76 form, [located here](#). There is no fee for this application and your approval period will be for five years from the date you completed your training.

To check your supervisor expiry date, log in to the AHPRA [online service portal](#). Click on '**Supervisor services**' and then '**Supervision information**'. Your user name and password are the same ones you use when renewing your registration in November each year.

Consultation on revised supervisor guidelines

The Board has commenced consultation on revised guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers.

The current supervisor guidelines were introduced in 2013 and the Board determined to review them every 3–5 years. The aim of this review is to streamline the supervision documents and ensure continued relevance of the requirements for supervisors and for supervisor training providers. The Board has identified some opportunities for improvement but is not proposing major changes to the supervisor training requirements. Psychologists will still need to complete a full training program to become a Board-approved supervisor and at least one master class every five years to maintain supervisor status. The Board considers the requirements for supervisors continue to protect the public by ensuring that provisional/developing psychologists are supervised by appropriately trained professionals with sufficient experience in their field of practice.

The Board will be seeking feedback on revised *Guidelines for supervisors* and separate *Guidelines for supervisor training providers*. The draft guidelines and a consultation paper explaining the changes are published under [Current Consultations](#) on the Board's website.

Consultation on Professional Indemnity Insurance

The Board has commenced public consultation on revisions to the Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) registration standard. The consultation paper is published under [Current Consultations](#) on the Board's website.

Feedback on the current standard indicates it is working well, however, the Board wishes to review the requirements for a minimum amount of cover, and has also identified some opportunities to update the language and structure of the PII standard to align it more closely with the PII registration standards of other National Boards.

You are invited to provide feedback by email using the template published with this consultation paper to psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business day, Friday 7 May 2017.

Advance release of the new National Psychology Examination Curriculum

In January 2018 the Board published on [the website](#) an advance copy of the new national psychology examination curriculum. The new curriculum will come into effect on 1 August 2018. By publishing the new curriculum documents six-months before it takes effect, exam candidates and their supervisors can start to become familiar with the new requirements. The first national psychology examination based on the new curriculum will be the August sitting of the exam (3-24 August 2018).

More information about the new curriculum is available on the [Board's website](#), along with the following documents:

- the updated [guidelines](#) for the national psychology examination
- an advanced copy of the new national psychology examination [curriculum](#)
- an advanced copy of the new [guide](#) 'a brief orientation to the national psychology examination', and
- the national psychology examination [recommended reading list - December 2017](#).

Board vacancies

Late applications for practitioner member vacancies on the Psychology Board will be accepted until 5pm on 9 March 2018.

The closing date has been extended to give registered practitioners a bit more time to express interest in being part of health practitioner regulation nationally. Psychologists from South Australia are especially encouraged to apply.

Triennial (three-yearly) recruitment rounds are an opportunity for Australian Health Ministers to consider reappointments and new appointments; so that National Boards have the best mix of experience, new and diverse views that will help inform their regulatory decision-making.

More information about the vacancies and how to apply is on the [AHPRA website](#).

Additionally, the Board will shortly be advertising for vacancies on the NT/SA/WA Regional Board and the Queensland Regional Board. The regional boards enable an effective and timely local response to health practitioners and the public in registration and notification matters.

Further information, including an application guide will be published on the [vacancies page](#) of the Board's website.

Self-assessment tool launched to help practitioners and advertisers

A self-assessment tool to help practitioners and advertisers check and correct their advertising so it complies with their professional and legal obligations has been launched.

The tool is easy to use and asks users to consider a number of questions about their advertising which can help them understand if it is in breach of the National Law. Advertisers' legal obligations are explained in the [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#).

The self-assessment tool is the latest in a series of [advertising resources](#) developed by AHPRA and National Boards for health practitioners, healthcare providers and other advertisers of regulated health services to use to help them comply with the law.

Advertising responsibly and within the law supports patients to receive accurate and reliable information about healthcare services that helps them make informed decisions about their healthcare choices.

This work is part of a broader strategy – an [Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy for the National Scheme](#) – which started last year. The strategy has met a number of its targets since its launch including clear, concise and helpful correspondence about advertising complaints and new resources such as a [summary of advertising obligations](#), [frequently asked questions](#), tips on [words to be wary about](#) and examples of [compliant and non-compliant advertising](#).

The [self-assessment tool](#) is available in the *Advertising resources* section on the AHPRA website.

Quarterly statistics report

The Board has released the latest registration data report for the psychology profession, which shows that there are now 35,369 psychologists nationally. The report, which also includes data on area of practice endorsements and Board-approved Supervisors, is published 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
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