



Communiqué

25 May 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 96th meeting of the Board on 25 May 2018.

Proposal to retire the 4+2 internship

This month the Board hosted a webinar and public forum to provide psychologists and interns with an opportunity to hear more and ask questions about the proposal to retire the 4+2 internship to registration. We were pleased to see a total of 470 participants log in to the webinar and 71 attend the forum in Sydney.

Participants raised a number of important questions including seeking information about the proposed future date for transition, questions about how many 4+2 interns work in regional and rural areas, the availability of fifth year courses, and how supervisors can prepare to supervise 5+1 interns. Over 150 questions were submitted by participants during the webinar and presenters sought to address key themes in the time available. Frequently asked questions from the events are now being collated and responses will be published, along with a copy of the presentation, on the [Professional Practice Issues](#) page of the Board's website soon.

The public consultation on the Board's proposal closes on 1 June 2018. Next steps are to consider the feedback received throughout the consultation process and finalise the proposal so that it can be presented to Ministers.

New national psychology examination curriculum- 1 August 2018

This is a reminder to candidates preparing to sit the national psychology exam, and their supervisors, that the new curriculum for the national psychology examination will come into effect on 1 August 2018. The first exam that will be based on the new requirements will be the August sitting of the exam (3-24 August 2018). Any candidate who sits the exam in August or later will be assessed on the new curriculum.

The Board released an advance copy of the new national psychology examination curriculum in January 2018, allowing a six-month transition for exam candidates and their supervisors to become familiar with the new requirements.

Details of the new requirements and the reasons for the changes are available at the national psychology examination section on the [Board's website](#).

New supervisor guidelines

The Board recently consulted on revised *Guidelines for supervisors* and *Guidelines for supervisor training providers*. The consultation paper explaining the proposal, draft versions of the guidelines, and copies of all submissions received can be found on the Board's [Past Consultations](#) page.

After considering stakeholder feedback and further revising the documents, the Board will shortly publish advance copies of the two new guidelines before they come in to effect later in the year.

Board-approved supervisors and psychologists interested in becoming a supervisor should familiarise themselves with the new guidelines before they take effect. The Board will publish supporting information to help psychologists understand the impacts of the changes.

Expression of interest process to deliver supervisor training

The Board will shortly invite applications from organisations, groups and individuals to act as a Board-approved supervisor training provider for the next five-year approval cycle (2019 to 2023), to deliver competency-based supervisor training programs to psychologists across Australia.

If you would like to be notified when the application period opens, please send an email to psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au requesting to have your contact details added to the stakeholder communication list for the expression of interest process.

More information about Board-approved supervisor training is available on the [Board's website](#).

Vexing not vexatious: Report finds more risk in not reporting

New independent research commissioned by AHPRA takes a first international look at vexatious complaints, finding there is more risk from people not reporting concerns than from making dubious complaints.

It also found that while being on the receiving end of a complaint is tough – the complaint is much more likely to be vexing than vexatious.

The report will be used to inform best practice for reducing, identifying, and managing vexatious complaints and helps to identify opportunities to work with others to help reduce their frequency and adverse consequences.

For further information read the research summary report [Reducing, identifying and managing vexatious complaints on the AHPRA website](#).

Read about progress on the first ever National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy

The health strategy group charged with developing the National Scheme's first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy has held its first meeting for 2018 and will publish its latest communiqué soon.

AHPRA, the 15 National Boards responsible for regulating the health professions, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations have committed to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy with the vision of: 'Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia's health system is the norm, as defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.'

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, CEO of ABSTARR Consulting, and Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia, are co-Chairs of the health strategy group. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group publish communiqués of its work. These are available on the [Advisory group page](#) of the AHPRA website.

This work is happening in conjunction with the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan for AHPRA.

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group is scheduled for July 2018.

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for psychologists on its website at 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
31 May 2018