



## Communiqué

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24 August 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 99th meeting of the Board on 24 August 2018.

### Final message from the National Board Chair

Thank you for all your support for the Psychology Board of Australia and its work over the past 9 years that I have been Chair.

We have had 99 meetings, published 31 public consultation papers on all aspects of the regulation of the profession, 23 newsletters, and developed and implemented contemporary standards, codes and guidelines for the profession.

Particular innovations have included the implementation of a national psychology examination, introduction of 5+1 standards and guidelines, approval for 9 areas of practice endorsement, supervisor training and supervisor approval processes, contemporary CPD with peer consultation a feature, the reform of the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council and approval of contemporary new accreditation standards, transition programs for international applicants and working with the other National Boards around improvements to the national law and mandatory cross-profession standards, codes and guidelines.

### National Board member appointments

Announcements in regards to National Board member appointments have not yet been made. With the exception of the Chair, the terms of current National Board members whose appointments are due to expire at the end of August 2018 will be automatically extended for up to six months while appointments are being finalised.

Ms Rachel Phillips (Queensland practitioner member) has been endorsed as the Presiding Member and will fulfil the duties of Chair until appointments are made.

### New supervisor guidelines

The Board's new *Guidelines for supervisors* and *Guidelines for supervisor training providers* took effect on 1 August 2018. Supervisors should familiarise themselves with the new [guidelines](#).

The Board has refreshed and simplified the guidelines, including reducing the number of supervisor approval categories to just 'Board-approved supervisor' and 'Registrar program principal supervisor'. Approval in the first category will allow you to supervise all Board-approved programs, including 4+2 and 5+1 internships, higher degrees, transitional programs, re-entry programs, and as a secondary supervisor for registrar programs. The new guidelines will now require all new supervisors hold general registration for three years before seeking Board-approval as a supervisor.

The Board has published a [fact sheet](#) which summarises and explains the changes and how they will impact current supervisors. Higher degree supervisors should review the [fact sheet](#) for more information on area of practice endorsement requirements under the new guidelines.

## **New national psychology exam curriculum**

The new curriculum for the national psychology exam came into effect on 1 August 2018. The first exam where candidates were assessed on the new curriculum was the August exam sitting (3-24 August).

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

More information about the new curriculum and resources for candidates preparing for the exam are available on the national psychology exam section of the [Board's website](#).

## **Extending the higher degree exemption from sitting the national psychology exam**

The [Guidelines for the national psychology exam](#) (the guidelines) states that graduates who apply for general registration with a Board-approved postgraduate qualification accredited as a fifth and sixth year of study in psychology before 1 July 2019 are exempt from passing the national psychology exam.

The Board has extended its exemption from completing the exam for graduates who complete the higher degree pathway and apply for general registration until 31 December 2019.

The Board will undertake a scheduled review of the guidelines over the next twelve months. As part of this review and consultation, the Board will also evaluate the higher degree exemption.

By extending the exemption until 31 December 2019, the Board intends to provide clarity and fairness to stakeholders during the upcoming review and consultation process, and to alleviate uncertainty for mid-year graduates about Board requirements.

## **Registrant statistics published**

Updated registrant statistics for the period ending 30 June 2018 have been published on the [Board's website](#).

## **Newsletter**

Issue 23 of Connections Newsletter was published on 20 August. The Newsletter is emailed to all registrants, and published on the [Board's website](#).

## **Are your contact details up to date?**

It is important that your contact details are up to date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. You can check your details via the Login icon at the top right of the [AHPRA website](#). Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

## **Further information**

The Board publishes a range of information for psychologists on its website at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](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.

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
31 August 2018