

Communiqué

26 October 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 101st meeting of the Board on 26 October 2018.

Message from the new Chair

The 4th Psychology Board of Australia has been appointed by Ministers:

Ms Rachel Phillips, Chair – Practitioner member, Qld
Ms Mary Brennan – Community member, ACT
Ms Rebecca Campbell – Practitioner member, NT
Ms Marion Hale – Community member, Tas
Ms Vanessa Hamilton – Practitioner member, ACT
Mr Peter Hooker – Community member, NSW
Dr Melissa Hughes – Practitioner member, NSW
Mr Christopher Joseph – Community member, Qld
Mr Tim Ridgway – Practitioner member, SA
Prof Jennifer Scott – Practitioner member, Tas
Associate Prof Jennifer Thornton – Practitioner member, WA
Prof Kathryn von Treuer – Practitioner member, Vic

On behalf of all stakeholder's involved in the regulation of psychology, I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution and commitment of our five retiring members: Professor Brin Grenyer, Professor Alfred Allan, Mr Radek Stratil, Mr Chris O'Brien, and Mrs Joanne Muller. Each member has been integral in transitioning health practitioner regulation towards a nationally consistent scheme.

Consultation on area of practice endorsement registration standard

The Board is consulting on a revised area of practice endorsement (AoPE) registration standard. The draft standard and consultation paper are available on the [Current consultations](#) page.

This consultation follows an initial consultation on an earlier draft of the AoPE standard in 2016. This review was placed on hold until new [Accreditation Standards for Psychology Programs](#) were finalised. The improvements proposed in 2016 remain part of the current proposal, including additional flexibility in registrar program requirements, formal recognition of bridging programs, and clarifying the ability to seek reinstatement of endorsement after it has lapsed.

The draft AoPE standard has been further revised to add a pathway to endorsement after completing a stand-alone area of practice program, introduced under the new accreditation standards effective 1 January 2019. Stand-alone programs are equivalent to an accredited sixth year of study and higher education providers can offer entry to psychologists who do not hold a postgraduate qualification or endorsement in another area of practice, for example, those who obtained registration through a 4+2 internship. Other proposed changes to the standard include adopting the same structure used in the Board's other registration standards and simplifying the content by leaving detailed explanations of requirements to the AoPE guidelines. The [consultation paper](#) summarises the changes proposed in 2016 and explains the differences between the 2016 and the current proposal.

The focus of the Board's education and training reform agenda over the past few years has been the retirement of the 4+2 pathway to registration. The next priority is a broad and comprehensive review of the nine areas of practice including an examination of the public interest arising from additional

regulation. The Board has determined that the areas of practice and competencies should not be changed until this detailed review is undertaken. Stakeholder feedback received during and since the 2016 consultation will influence the planning of this review.

Submissions on the draft AoPE registration standard are due by close of business Friday 7 December 2018. Please provide in Word format to psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au.

Renew registration online now

We have launched the 2018 renewal of registration campaign for psychologists and AHPRA has sent email reminders to psychologists who have provided an email address.

To update your contact details visit the Board's website and use the appropriate link under [Access online services](#). A user ID and secure password is necessary. If you have forgotten your user ID you can complete a web enquiry form. Select [Online services - Practitioner](#) as the category type.

The registration renewal date for psychologists with general or non-practising registration is 30 November 2018. The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is [online](#).

Renewal applications received during December will incur a late payment fee.

Under the National Law practitioners who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the [Register of Psychologists](#). Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise psychology in Australia. A fast-track application can be made, only during January. The practitioner cannot practise until the application is processed and the register is updated.

You should read the Board's [registration standards](#) carefully before applying to renew, as information in support of declarations made in an application could be requested.

A [renewal FAQ](#) is available on the Board's website.

Quarterly statistics report

The Board has released the latest registration data report for the psychology profession, which shows that there are now 36,592 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 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.

Rachel Phillips
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
07 November 2018