



Communiqué

16 September 2019

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 110th meeting of the Board on 30 August 2019.

Getting to know your colleague – information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice profession

This month, members of the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board \(ATSIHPBA\)](#) gave an update to the Psychology Board about the ATSIHPBA, the profession and its practitioners.

The [ATSIHPBA](#) want to help the psychology profession understand the value that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners can bring to Australian healthcare to make it culturally safe and help close the gap. Below are some simple facts about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and their profession to help psychologists know more.

The ATSIHPBA would like to continue to work with AHPRA and the psychology profession to help spread the word about the culturally safe workforce which is qualified, competent, registered and ready to go to work in both clinical and non-clinical roles.

There are some things that psychologists can do to help:

- **Ask a question:** ask your health service, employer or other team members, 'how many Aboriginal Health Practitioners do we employ?' or 'Did you know we could make our practice more culturally safe by employing an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner, and do our bit towards closing the gap?'
- **Make them a priority:** Prioritise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health workforce agenda.
- **Share the message:** Distribute the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice [profession brochures](#) explaining their role to employers.

Engaging the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce to work in partnership with psychologists is a key opportunity to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

If you would like to find out more about the profession please contact ATSIHPBA Executive Officer, Jill Humphreys at jill.humphreys@ahpra.gov.au.

Have your say on the latest consultations

Public consultations are underway to boost patient safety across Australia. The National Boards and AHPRA invite you to have your say on the following consultations.

Guidelines for mandatory notifications

The revised guidelines aim to help practitioners, employers and education providers understand whether to make a mandatory notification about a registered health practitioner. The changes to mandatory notifications guidelines also include changes that are a result of legislation [passed by the Queensland Parliament earlier this year](#).

To have your say please read the draft revised guidelines and consultation paper and respond to the questions via links on the [Consultation section](#) of the Board's website. The consultation closes on 6 November 2019.

Guidelines for advertising a regulated health service

The Guidelines have been updated to ensure they are effective in helping practitioners understand their advertising obligations under the National Law. They explain and provide guidance on these obligations with the structure and readability of the guidelines improved to make it easier to find specific information.

To have your say please read the draft revised guidelines and consultation paper and respond to the questions via links on the [Consultation section](#) of the Board's website. The consultation closes on 26 November 2019.

Newsletter Published

The Board has published Issue 26 of the Connections newsletter. All registered psychologists have been emailed a copy of the newsletter. It is also available on the [Newsletters section](#) on the Board's website.

Registrant statistics published

Updated registrant statistics for the period ending 30 June 2019 have been 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. 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
16 September 2019