

Registration as a provisional psychologist in South Australia

What is the new scheme?

A national registration and accreditation scheme came into effect in Australia on 1 July. As a result, there are new obligations and requirements for registered psychologists and for individuals training to become a psychologist. Information about the new scheme and the implications for practitioners is published on the Board's website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au.

What types of registration apply to psychology?

For the psychology profession, there are now three registration types:

- general registration
- provisional registration
- non-practising registration

What does national registration mean for post-graduate students in South Australia?

From 1 July 2010, individuals undertaking both:

- a) a 4 +2 pathway to registration; and
- b) an APAC accredited higher degree leading to general registration,

must be registered as a provisional psychologist.

Post-graduate students must be registered from the start of their higher degree.

Australian states and territories except SA and WA previously offered provisional or probationary registration to post-graduate psychology students. These students have automatically transitioned to provisional registration under the National Law.

However, SA and WA have not previously registered higher degree psychology students. Post-graduate students from SA need to apply to the Psychology Board of Australia for provisional registration from 1 July 2010. Students from WA will need to do so when WA joins the scheme as planned later in 2010.

What do SA post-graduate psychology students have to do now?

You **must** submit an application to the Board for provisional registration **now**.

If you lodge your application by **14 August 2010** you will be able to continue in or start your placement, pending a Board decision on your application.

All applicants will be required to meet the requirements of the National Board and the National Law. These are detailed on the Board's website under Registration Standards.

The Board has extended its previous deadline of 30 July to make it easier for SA post-graduate students to comply with this requirement.

What happens if a SA post-graduate psychology student does not apply for provisional registration?

Any SA post-graduate psychology student must apply for provisional registration with the psychology board now. If you lodge your application by **14 August 2010** you will be able to continue in or start your placement, pending a Board decision on your application. If you are not granted provisional registration you will not be able to undertake placements and you will therefore not be able to complete your degree.

How do I apply for provisional registration in SA?

The application form to apply for provisional registration is on the Psychology Board of Australia website at: www.psychologyboard.gov.au. This form can be submitted in person or by mail.

What does it cost to apply for provisional registration?

The usual application fee to apply for provisional registration is \$410 and the annual registration fee for provisional registration is \$390.

The Psychology Board of Australia in its meeting on 30 July 2010 has determined to waive the application fee (\$410) for all psychologists applying for provisional registration in South Australia prior to the 14 August 2010 deadline. All individuals undertaking both a 4+2 pathway to registration and an APAC accredited higher degree leading to general registration who apply for provisional registration prior to 14 August 2010 will be only required to pay the registration fee (\$390).

How long will it take for my application to be processed?

Every application is processed individually. If you lodge your application by **14 August 2010** you will be able to continue in or start your placement, pending a Board decision on your application.

What will the Psychologists Board of Australia do to help you meet the new requirements?

Information about obligations under the National Law and the National Board's registration standards are published at www.psychologyboard.org.au and www.ahpra.gov.au.

Application forms and information are available on the Psychologists Board of Australia website at: <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au>.

The Board sent a letter to all universities in South Australia and Western Australia in May 2010 to ensure that academic and support staff were aware of the requirements under the National Law.

Why is there no student registration for psychologists?

The Psychologists Board of Australia decided in December 2009 that there would be no category of student registration for psychologists.

Registration of post-graduate students as probationary or provisional psychologists has been a standard practice in psychology in most of Australia (except SA and WA).

The Board believes the category of provisional registration better represents the training pathways of psychologists. Student registration is typically applied to registrants in undergraduate programs, or in programs where students are closely supervised and do not work independently in a practical environment. The Board believed this did not apply to students in post graduate psychology programs (or individuals undergoing the 4+2 internship program) who have completed their undergraduate training, and are required to operate autonomously (under supervision).

Under the national scheme, all individuals working towards general registration as a psychologist will have a consistent title in every state and territory of Australia. This is important in helping the public understand more about the registration status of psychologists.

What is my fee used for?

Under the model of registration in place in Australia, fees from registrants fund the regulation of the profession. The core role of the Board is to protect the public, by registering only practitioners who have the qualifications, skills and experience to provide safe care and by setting clear and appropriate registration and professional standards.

Can I work as a graduate officer?

Until 30 June 2010, the Psychology Board of South Australia authorised some students to practice under supervision (not for registration), external to the placements required in a post graduate degree. Some students have been offered and begun employment with the organisation that provided their placement under their Masters program as a Graduate Officer.

Under the National Law, a provisional psychologist undertaking an accredited higher coursework degree pathway may only practise outside university placements and use the title 'provisional psychologist' with Board approval. Information about this can be found in the 4+2 Guidelines

available on the Psychology Board of Australia (PBA) website at:
<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au>. The Board will be discussing this issue further at its next Board meeting, and additional information, including an application for working outside placement will be available on the PBA website in due course.