

Media release

18 May 2011

Psychologists urged to check registration expiry date and renew on time

The Psychology Board of Australia today urged psychologists across all states and territories to check their registration expiry date and renew on time, particularly if due to renew registration by 30 June 2011 – their first time under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Psychologists can check their registration expiry date on the National Register of Psychologists published online at www.psychologyboard.gov.au. The best way to search the Register is by name and profession.

Board Chair Professor Brin Grenyer encouraged psychologists whose registration expires on 30 June to renew on time and online.

“In the National Scheme, individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Psychology Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible,” Professor Grenyer said.

He said AHPRA was implementing an intensive communication campaign to support the renewal process. This will include sending several reminder emails and letters to individual psychologists.

Professor Grenyer encouraged psychologists to provide AHPRA with their email address to allow for easy and efficient direct communication with them.

Psychologists, the majority of whom due to renew by 30 June are in New South Wales and Western Australia, will renew for five months and their registration will be valid until 30 November 2011 when they must renew again.

The renewal date for all psychologists in Australia will then be aligned, and registration renewal will be due by 30 November each year.

Professor Grenyer reminded the profession that there were significant consequences for individual psychologists who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

“Under the National Law, psychologists who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Psychologists.

“Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise psychology in Australia until a new application for registration is approved,” Professor Grenyer said.

Background

There are some simple steps psychologists can follow for easy and straightforward renewal of registration:

1. **Check your contact details** – make sure your contact details, including email and mobile telephone, are correct and current. This will allow AHPRA to send you renewal reminders and to contact you easily
2. **Check your registration expiry date** – practitioners can view their expiry date on the National Register of Psychologists, accessible at www.psychologyboard.gov.au and enter their last name and profession to search
3. **Watch for the notice to renew registration** – a notice to renew registration, including the unique contact number (user ID) supporting online renewal, will be mailed to each practitioner up to eight weeks before registration expires
4. **Use online services** for quick and easy renewal of registration – most practitioners can renew registration online using the unique contact number (user ID) provided on the registration renewal notice sent by AHPRA. Online renewal of registration usually takes between two and 48 hours, depending on the method of payment chosen by the practitioner and whether the application contains any adverse declarations.

Psychologists who do not have their unique contact number can get it by submitting an online enquiry form – selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495. Practitioners can also mail their renewal application to AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, in their capital city.

Psychologists can check that their application has been received at the Board's website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au. Practitioners whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed. The listing on the National Register of Psychologists is evidence for employers that a practitioner is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed.

Psychologists who forget to renew their registration by 30 June 2011, or within the one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. They are not able to practise in the profession until their registration application has been granted.

Renew online – Register on time

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200