



Communiqué

26 July 2013

The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). This communiqué highlights key issues from the 43rd meeting of the Board on 26 July 2013. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Call for expressions of interest - ACT/TAS/VIC Regional Board vacancy

Senior psychologists residing in Victoria are invited to lodge an expression of interest to sit on the ACT/TAS/VIC Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia. The Regional Board meets monthly for a whole day, usually the first or second Monday of the month. The position is remunerated. Board members are required to act impartially with the role of protecting the public. The Board would appreciate it if this expression of interest was distributed widely to interested persons in Victoria. For further information: www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/2013-07-19-board-member-vacancy.aspx

Psychology Board of Australia sets 2013-2014 fees

The Board has announced the registration fee for psychologists for 2013/14. The fee has been set at \$419. It will apply from 1 August 2013 and cover the registration period for most practitioners of 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

The Board limited increasing the fee to 2.4%, which is under the national consumer price index (CPI), to allow the Board to continue its work regulating the profession while not putting undue financial pressure on practitioners.

While no one likes to pay fees, it is important to emphasise that practitioner fees allow the Board to fulfil its regulatory functions in an efficient, effective and fair way as possible.

The National Boards in the National Scheme have seen an increase in notifications (complaints) over the past year. As the number, complexity and cost of these cases cannot be accurately forecast, the Boards will continue to keep fees under close review to ensure careful financial management.

[A fee schedule](#), including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW, will be published on the National Board's website on 1 August 2013.

More detailed information about the Board's financial operations is provided in the Health Profession Agreement between the Board and AHPRA, which will be published on the website when it is finalised. This agreement sets out the services AHPRA will provide to support the Board to regulate psychology. A [cost allocation study is also published on the AHPRA website](#). The study details how AHPRA costs are distributed between National Boards to reflect actual work done.

The regulation of psychology is funded solely by registrant fees and there is no cross subsidisation between professions that are regulated in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Apply to become a Board-approved training provider

Applications to become a Board-approved training provider close on **16 August 2013**.

The Board will assess and approve applicants based on their:

- ability to meet Board standards and requirements of the [Guideline for supervisors and supervisor training providers](#).
- responses to the selection criteria in the [application pack](#).

Multiple training providers may be selected to facilitate delivery of supervisor training nationally (in both urban and regional areas) and ensure a complete range of training components.

Late applications to this approval round will not be accepted. The Board envisages that it will open the application process again in due course (in 2014). Future opportunities will be communicated on the Board's website.

Draft Guidelines for the 5+1 Internship Programs

The public consultation on the draft guidelines for the 5+1 internship program recently closed. The Board is currently reviewing the feedback and will work to finalise the Guidelines for publication in the coming months. The Board would like to thank everyone for their submissions which will soon be [published on the Board website](#).

Accreditation - approved programs of study

Under section 49 of the National Law, the National Board requires accreditation reports from the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) before it can approve the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration.

At this meeting the Board approved the full accreditation of a course at Deakin University. This course will be added to the list of Board-approved courses that is published on the Board's website.

The Board also approved the discontinuation of a number of courses across the country in accordance with s.51(2) of the National Law, including courses at Bond University, Deakin University and Charles Darwin University. Students currently enrolled in these courses will still have their qualification recognised for registration when they graduate, but there will be no new enrolments in these courses.

Area of practice endorsement statistics

The Board has recently published its latest area of practice endorsement statistics. These statistics provide information about psychologists who hold more than one area of practice endorsement and the geographic location of psychologists with an endorsement. These data tables include statistics that are additional to those already published in Board's quarterly registration statistics. For more information on psychology registration and area of practice endorsements, please see the Board's website: www.psychologyboard.gov.au.

Newsletter

The Board has recently released Issue 8 of the *Connections* newsletter. *Connections* was emailed to all psychologists who have provided their email address to AHPRA, and is also published on the Board's website - www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
1 August 2013