



Communiqué

1 May 2015

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 62nd meeting of the Board on 1 May 2015.

At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

National scheme review - update

Ministers met in mid-April at the COAG Health Council to discuss a range of national health issues, including the final report of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) Review. The independent review was conducted by Kim Snowball, the former Director General of Health in WA. It involved an extensive consultation process that included more than 230 written submissions and more than 1,000 individuals participating in consultation forums in each capital city.

The review aimed to identify what was working well in the National Scheme and opportunities to improve and strengthen our work to protect the public and facilitate access to health services. According to the report of the meeting, health ministers will consider the recommendations from the NRAS Review and discuss them further at their meeting in August 2015.

The *COAG Health Council communiqué* is available on the [COAG Health Council website](#).

Newsletter

The Board has released Issue 13 of its newsletter *Connections*. You can read it on the [Board's website](#). In this issue, the Board reported it had received correspondence from Medicare which included advice of amendments to their requirements for approval to provide Psychological Therapy services (clinical psychology). In response to feedback received from registrants, the Board has published further [explanatory information](#) about this advice.

Approved programs of study

Under section 49 of the National Law, the Board requires accreditation reports from the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) before approving the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification that will lead to registration.

At this meeting the Board approved APAC-accredited courses at University of Melbourne. The Board also approved the discontinuation of a number of courses across the country in accordance with section 1(2) of the National Law, including courses at University of Sydney and University of South Australia. An updated list of Board-approved qualifications will soon be published under *Accreditation* on the [Board's website](#).

Upcoming Public forum – Darwin

The Board continues holding public forums with the next to be held on Thursday, 30 July 2015 in Darwin. Topics to be covered include:

- public protection
- professional standards

- national psychology examination
- supervision and supervisor training
- international psychology competencies
- practitioner audit
- notifications, and
- complaints management.

Invitations will be sent to all Northern Territory registrants by email in June.

Top tips on using the register for public safety

AHPRA has published [Top tips: Using the register for public safety checks](#) to help the public and employers get the most out of AHPRA's register of practitioners.

The tips remind anyone responsible for recruiting health practitioners how to use the register to verify practitioners' registration status. Employers can download the pdf and distribute it to their staff as a handy reminder about using the register for patient safety checks.

Information for Board-approved supervisors

The Board, together with AHPRA, is working on improvements to the online search for a supervisor. Some of the aims of the project are to implement:

- a new secure messaging system for contacting supervisors which will remove the need to publish supervisor email addresses
- better search results display, including combining multiple supervision types for individual supervisors into one record per person and removing the current limit of 200 search results, and
- a new geographic coding system that will enable users to search surrounding suburbs within a specified distance.

What should supervisors do now?

Supervisors should check their principal place of practice (PPP) is correct via the [online login for practitioners](#). The PPP must be a physical suburb (not a post office box) as this information will be used for the new location search option. The suburb/postcode combination must also be correct.

Supervisors should also go to the [online search for a supervisor](#) to check their supervisor email address (if visible) is correct and email us at psych-supervisor@ahpra.gov.au if it needs to be updated.

Your supervisor email address will be used for the new messaging system and after the improvements are implemented it will no longer be visible on the website. If your supervisor email address is currently not visible it is because you have not given permission for it to be published.

The Board anticipates implementing the improvements to search for a supervisor in early May 2015 and will email more information to supervisors after the implementation.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia

6 May 2015