



Communiqué

28 April 2017

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 84th meeting of the Board on 28 April 2017.

Brisbane forum

The Board will be hosting a public forum in Brisbane on Thursday 25 May 2017 to discuss contemporary issues in psychology practice.

Members of the Board will present on a number of topics, followed by an open discussion with members of the profession and students.

Issues discussed will include:

- current issues in psychology regulation and workforce reform, including specialist title and expanding scopes of practice, reform of training models and international benchmarks
- social media and online communication with clients, including issues in e-therapy; advertising your practice and how to represent your title, qualifications and services to others
- the complexity of private practice including pitfalls in entering into contracts with others, issues in billing and communication, principles of confidentiality when balancing duty to employers, employees and the psycho-legal context, and
- a reconciliation action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

The forum will run from 4.30pm- 7pm at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, 23 Leichhardt Street (cnr Wickham Terrace) Brisbane.

It is essential to RSVP to attend this event. Due to space limitations there may be a waiting list and only those with a confirmed RSVP will be admitted. Please RSVP by 16 May 2017 [via this link](#).

Call for expressions of interest to serve as a Director on the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council- applications extended until Monday 8 May

The Board has extended its call for expressions of interest to fill an upcoming vacancy as the Psychology Board of Australia Director nominee to the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) Board.

The Psychology Board nominates four Directors (three psychologists and one non-psychologist community member with expertise in law) to sit on the APAC Board. The current call for expressions of interest is open to psychologists only. The term of appointment is three years, with eligibility for reappointment for one further term. The APAC Board meets approximately six times a year, mostly in Melbourne, although other meetings both face to face and by teleconference may be held.

To express interest applicants should send a curriculum vitae (including the contact details of two referees) and a cover letter that addresses how the candidate demonstrates the attributes and

competencies required of an APAC director (see table below) to: Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia, at psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au.

The APAC Board has a total of 12 Directors. The Australian Psychological Society (APS) and Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association (HODSPA) nominate four persons each by their own separate processes.

Expressions of interest close **5.00pm AEDT on Monday 8 May 2017**.

APAC Director- Attributes and competencies	
Internal	External
A solid and current knowledge of the APAC Accreditation Standards and the accreditation processes employed by APAC.	A strong understanding of the role and legal responsibilities of a company director.
A commitment and focus on protecting and improving the quality of education and training of psychologists in Australia.	A strategic approach, including skills in strategic planning within relevant and current contexts.
Sound understanding of the relevant sections of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (especially Divisions 2 and 3).	The ability to apply business judgement to decision-making.
The commitment and ability to devote time to Board matters and be involved in the work of committees.	The ability to represent the APAC Board to external bodies or committees.
Significant experience and knowledge of the higher education sector, especially regarding the discipline and profession of psychology.	The ability to work constructively as part of a team governing the strategic direction of a company such as APAC.
A genuine interest in an commitment to achieving the highest standards of psychological skills and expertise among Australia practitioners.	Be prepared to participate in director training as recommended and supported by APAC, once appointed.

Revised accreditation standards

In February, the Board received a supplementary submission from APAC in relation to its process for developing revised accreditation standards for the psychology profession. The submission included comparisons with the 2010 standards and international and national competencies and curriculum, an analysis of stakeholder feedback, transition plans and case studies of how the new standards will be enforced. The Board received a presentation on the submission at its meeting.

The Board reviewed the September submission and February supplementary submission, and in early April has provided feedback and recommendations to APAC. The Board's feedback outlines technical improvements required to ensure the accreditation standards are consistent with the National Law, improvements to ensure the accreditation standards can stand alone without reference to external standards or rules (e.g. AQF Levels), and areas to strengthen public protection to ensure programs are well lead and thoroughly prepare students for contemporary independent practice. Once these modifications are considered and incorporated by APAC, the Board believes it will be in a position to approve the proposed standards.

Responsible advertising of health services: Practitioners reminded about their legal obligations

Registered health practitioners are reminded to **check, correct** and **comply** with their professional and legal advertising obligations.

The National Boards and AHPRA have published a strategy for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) to help keep health service consumers safe from misleading advertising.

The [Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy for the National Scheme](#) explains how National Boards and AHPRA will manage advertising complaints and compliance, including the regulatory powers available to deal with breaches of the National Law.¹

Practitioners have a professional and legal obligation to advertise responsibly and support members of the community to make informed choices about their healthcare. The National Law limits how regulated health services² can be advertised.

When preparing advertising, you should always ensure that your advertising is not false, misleading or deceptive in any way. You are encouraged to use the resources available on AHPRA's website to **check** and, if necessary, **correct** your advertising to ensure you **comply** with National Law requirements.

This strategy builds on the previous education and enforcement work from National Boards and AHPRA and will be supported by publishing new materials in the coming weeks to help health practitioners understand their advertising obligations.

Under the National Law, a regulated health service or a business providing a regulated health service must not advertise in a way that:

- is false, misleading or deceptive
- uses gifts, discounts or inducements without explaining the terms and conditions of the offer
- uses a testimonial or a purported testimonial
- creates an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment, and/or
- directly or indirectly encourages the indiscriminate or unnecessary use of regulated health services.

There are also restrictions on advertising in a way that identifies a health practitioner as a specialist when they do not hold registration as a specialist or as an endorsed practitioner in a health profession.

More information, including the strategy and examples of unacceptable statements in advertising, is available on the *Advertising resources* section of the [AHPRA website](#).

AHPRA's regulatory role means it may need to take action for non-compliant advertising. If you are unsure about whether or not your advertising complies with the National Law you should seek advice from your:

- professional association
- insurer, and/or
- an independent legal adviser.

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

² A 'regulated health service' is a service provided by, or usually provided by, a health practitioner, as defined in the National Law. The advertising provisions of the National Law cover the advertising of a regulated health service, or the advertising of a business that provides a regulated health service.

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for psychologists on its website at <http://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.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
4 May 2017