

## Communiqué

### Third Meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

16 September 2011

The third meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 16 September 2011 concurrently with the national boards' annual conference in Sydney.

#### Stakeholder consultation on draft registration standards

The Board is pleased to note that on 29 August 2011 a series of draft registration standards were published for stakeholder consultation. The proposed registration standards cover professional indemnity insurance, matters about the criminal history of applicants for registration, requirements for continuing professional development including CPD guidelines, requirements for English language skills and requirements in relation to recency of practice.

The Board urges all interested people to make a submission on the proposed standards and send it via email to [otboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:otboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au) marked "Registration Standards". The closing date for submissions is 5pm Monday, 7 October 2011. Unfortunately no late submissions will be accepted because the Board will only have a short period of time to finalise the standards before submitting them to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval.

#### Making a submission

The draft standards along with details about how to make a submission to the Board are available on the Board's website at [www.ahpra.gov.au/occupational-therapy/News/Consultations.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/occupational-therapy/News/Consultations.aspx).

#### Additional standards, codes and guidelines

The Board plans to develop more consultation papers over the coming months, including a code of conduct, guidelines to cover mandatory reporting obligations under the National Law and a guideline about advertising practitioner services.

#### Communication strategy

At the meeting, the Board agreed to a detailed communication strategy acknowledging the importance of effective engagement to ensure that both registered and unregistered practitioners are informed about requirements for the commencement of national registration.

The Board is pleased to announce that it now has a designated website at [www.ahpra.gov.au/occupational-therapy.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/occupational-therapy.aspx). All interested parties are encouraged to visit the website and participate in consultation on standards, policies, codes and guidelines. Your input will help shape how national regulation works for the profession from 1 July 2012.

#### Finance

The Board has commenced budget planning and also considered a number of other administrative and financial matters. The Board's process will inform decisions about the annual registration fee. The Board is aware that this is an issue of particular interest to practitioners.

Dr Mary Russell

Chair

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