

## Communiqué

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

18 October 2011

The fourth meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 18 October 2011 at the National AHPRA office in Melbourne.

The Board is making good progress against its work plan.

As in previous meetings, the Board continued work to prepare for the commencement of national registration on 1 July 2012.

#### Stakeholder Feedback on draft registration standards

The Board was pleased to receive over 66 submissions via email on its consultation paper and draft registration standards. The Board thanks stakeholders for their interest and valuable feedback. The submissions are available on the Board's website (except for those submissions marked confidential).

All feedback was reviewed by the Registration Standards Committee and by the Board at its meeting. The final registration standard drafts for the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council are now being prepared, taking the submissions into account. The Ministerial Council is expected to consider the proposals in December 2011, to enable the Board's standards to be made available on the website before early applications for registration are invited in February 2012, and before commencement of national registration on 1 July 2012.

#### Additional standards, codes and guidelines

The Board considered draft guidelines on mandatory notifications, which explain the requirements under the national law for health practitioners, employers and education providers to make compulsory notifications about health practitioners in certain circumstances. The Board also considered draft guidelines on the advertising of services provided by registered practitioners and a code of conduct for Occupational Therapy. The Board agreed to further develop this work over the coming month with a view to releasing draft guidelines for public consultation in November 2011.

#### Communication strategy

The Board continues to develop its communication strategy, which will result in a wide dissemination of information about national registration to both registered and unregistered practitioners in all jurisdictions.

#### Accreditation arrangements

The Board discussed its accreditation arrangements. The Board is aiming to finalise accreditation arrangements by 30 June 2012. To enable preparatory work to be undertaken for this timeframe to be met, the Board will be working to finalise legal, budget and procedural issues as well as clarifying reporting and consultation requirements.

## Finance

Work on the Board's budget and the registration fees for 2012–2013 is progressing. This will be finalised after transfer arrangements with existing state and territory registration Boards has been completed.

The proposed fees will need to be submitted to Health Ministers for their approval before publication. There will be two fees; an initial application fee and an annual registration fee.

Practitioners who are already registered with a state or territory registration Board on 30 June 2012 will automatically transition to the national scheme. They will not need to apply for registration, therefore will not pay an application fee, but will pay an annual renewal fee at the end of their registration period.

Those practitioners who are not currently registered in any jurisdiction will be required to pay an initial application fee and the registration fee. The application fee covers the additional administrative costs associated with processing a new application.

The Board acknowledged the continuing efforts of existing State and Territory boards, AHPRA staff and the NRAS 2012 Project team in preparing for the national registration of the Occupational Therapy Board in 2012, and looks forward to continued joint effort in the coming months.

Dr Mary Russell

Chair

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