

Communiqué

Ninth meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

17 April 2012

At its April meeting 2012 the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) discussed a wide range of matters that will impact on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the progress in the work of the national board.

National Registration for Occupational Therapists

The Board is grateful to the many practitioners who have made timely submissions of applications for registration. Those who intend applying for registration are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, to minimise the risk of disruptions to their practise.

English language standard

The Board has released further advice for overseas qualified practitioners seeking to demonstrate English language skills other than by completing the IELTS or OET. The accompanying reporting forms will be attached to the Board's Fact Sheet on its website shortly.

Grandparenting applications from OTs not working in direct patient care settings

The Board is aware that some practitioners applying for registration work in roles that do not involve provision of direct clinical services. The Board has established equivalent requirements for supplying practice-based information which does not rely on clinical case studies.

These requirements for practice-based information are applicable to those who practice in non-clinical roles such as manager, policy officer etc. They uphold the requirements of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory and maintain the requirements set out in the Board's standard.

Further information is available via a Fact Sheet available at the Board's website.

Stakeholder information sessions

The Board has provided stakeholder information sessions throughout the currently unregistered jurisdictions of NSW, VIC the ACT and TAS. Presentations are now being scheduled for WA, SA, QLD and the NT. Practitioners are encouraged to register their email address for news updates via the Board's website to keep up to date with sessions.

Supervision guidelines

The Board will soon be consulting on draft guidelines for supervision, which will be applicable to practitioners with limited or provisional registration or with conditions requiring work under supervision. The draft Supervision Guidelines set out the principles of supervision, the levels,

requirements and responsibilities. Details on how to make a submission will be released via the Board's website.

General matters

The Board's website has received an increase in traffic over the past three months indicating that there is a high demand for accurate information. Further information on the work of the Board can be found at www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au.

Chairperson

Dr Mary Russell

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