

## Communiqué

### Tenth meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

15 May 2012

At its May 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 – application deadline

The Board noted that many occupational therapists applying to register for the first time have already submitted an application, and appreciates their prompt response. As it takes time to assess and verify the information in an application the Board continues to encourage those who intend applying for registration to do so as soon as possible, to minimise the risk of disruptions to their practice. If a practitioner lodges an application late in may not be assessed by 1 July 2012. Details on how to apply are available at the Board's website: [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au)

#### National Board issues guidance on who needs to be registered

The Board has issued guidance about when practitioners need to be registered. The guidance builds from the definition of practice used in the Board's registration standards and provides profession-specific advice relevant to occupational therapists. The guidance is available as a fact sheet, available at the Board's website [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx)

#### Codes and Guidelines

The Board is grateful to stakeholders who provided a submission during its public consultation process for its proposed codes and guidelines, noted as:

- Guidelines for Advertising of Regulated Health Services
- Guidelines for Mandatory Notifications
- Code of Conduct

As the codes and guidelines are common for the health professions currently regulated, the Board has agreed to publish the common versions, which are now available at its website: [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx).

The Board has however made careful consideration of the submissions received, and has formulated some recommended changes. The Board notes that whilst these changes do not substantively alter the content, they will improve clarity and workability. The Board's proposed changes will therefore be commended to AHPRA for consideration by all Boards, as part of the general review timed for late 2012. A summary of the submissions received and the Board's decision is also available at its website: [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx)

### **Board Activity – Delegated Committees**

In addition to the Board's monthly meetings and out of session activities members continue to work on the Board's delegated committees.

The Registration and Notifications Committee is meeting regularly to consider applications for registration. From 1 July 2012 its duties will expand to deal with the notifications transitioning from local registration Boards and new notifications received once national registration commences for OTs.

The Board's Immediate Action Committee has been established to exercise the Board's powers to take immediate action in relation to a registered health practitioner or a student as defined under s155 of the National Law and to exercise any other functions delegated by the Board.

### **Meetings with Practitioners**

The Board has continued its visits to discuss national registration with occupational therapists in all states and territories. We welcome the interest the practitioner community has shown in the scheme and the opportunity to discuss the standards and requirements which practitioners need to be aware of in relation to registration from 1 July.

### **Chairperson**

Dr Mary Russell

15 May 2012