

Communiqué

Twelfth meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

17 July 2012

At its July meeting 2012 the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) discussed a wide range of matters that related to its regulatory function within 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 – 1 July 2012

On 1 July 2012 the occupational therapy profession joined Australia's National Scheme. The registration of new and transitioning practitioners was noted by the Board as a major success with the latest report on applications, registrations, key deliverables and the Board's workplan meeting key performance targets.

The Board's website has been updated and includes new FAQs to assist registrants. Automatic emails have also been sent to all applicants and registrants, advising them of their registration status.

Board members welcomed practitioners to the National Scheme and acknowledged the work of AHPRA staff members involved in ensuring that practitioners can be registered where they have the necessary skills, qualifications and knowledge to provide safe care. National registration is an historic achievement for the profession and marks the beginning of effective regulatory and best practice functions.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Registered occupational therapists will have from 1 July 2012 until 30 November to meet the requirement of 30 hours of CPD. To assist practitioners in understanding their responsibilities and their requirements of the Board's *Continuing Professional Development Registration Standard* a targeted communication plan will be implemented.

This will involve practitioner forums and the development of worked examples and information materials to disseminate widely. As these activities are developed, the Board will release its schedule of activities to its website www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au and email details to all registered practitioners.

National Public Register – Online Login Details

On 1 July 2012 all registered practitioners were issued with a new national registration number and a practitioner User ID and password, which can be used to update personal information on the national public register. The national register is evidence of your registration and the most up to date source of information. Practitioners can login online to view current registration details and modify some personal information, such as the Principal Place of Practice (suburb, postcode, state).

Visit the AHPRA website www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Practitioner-Services.aspx and use your health practitioner login. Should you have any enquires please call the customer service team at AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Supervision Guidelines

The Board has reviewed all submissions received during consultation on the Supervision Guidelines. Further refinements will be developed for reporting during supervised practice. An updated version of the Supervision Guidelines and related information will be published in due course.

Recency of Practice

To help clarify the requirements of the Board's *Recency of Practice Registration Standard* the Board has developed a Fact Sheet and accompanying form which will be soon be published to the Board's website www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au.

Key messages include that:

- the Board may consider a practitioners' circumstances on a case-by-case basis, whilst upholding the requirements of the National Law and the Board's registration standard
- The Board's assessment of applications and renewals that do not meet the recency of practice requirement will take into account a number of factors.

Chairperson

Dr Mary Russell
17 July 2012