

Communiqué

Thirteenth meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

21 August 2012

At its August 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.

Stakeholder Meetings

Now that the national registration scheme has been successfully implemented the Board determined it would make it a priority to engage with the profession about regulation and encourage integration of registration standards, codes and guidelines into daily practice. The Board will conduct approximately 2-3 meetings each year outside Melbourne and conduct practitioner meetings in conjunction with these Board meetings. An interstate meeting schedule is being devised as well as a survey which practitioners can complete to provide feedback about potential topics for discussion with the Board. Communications material (eg slides, fact sheets etc) will also be uploaded to the Board's website in due course.

Supervision Guidelines

The Board's Supervision Guidelines are available at its website. The guidelines set out the principles the Board considers central to safe and effective supervision for a range of regulatory needs. The Board's website has been updated to improve clarity for practitioners and supervisors about the forms to be used for different supervision arrangements (see www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au).

Panel List Members

Under section 183 of the National Law a Board may refer a notification to a health or performance assessment panel. The Panel members must be drawn from a Board-approved list of approved persons. AHPRA will progress an advertisement and conduct a recruitment process to identify practitioners and community members who could participate as members of panels considering health and performance issues. To keep up to date with such news practitioners are invited to register for eNews updates at the Board's website, to receive email alerts (see www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/About/Receive-Updates.aspx).

Health Performance Agreement

Under the National Law¹ National Boards and AHPRA work in partnership to implement the National Scheme, each with specific roles, powers and responsibilities. The guiding principles of the National Law require the National Scheme to operate in a 'transparent, accountable, efficient and fair way'; and for registration fees to be reasonable'...having regard to the efficient and effective operation of the scheme'. In alignment with these principles the Board and AHPRA has published the Health

¹ Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) see www.ahpra.gov.au

Profession Agreement that details the services AHPRA will provide to the Board 2012-13. Full details and the media release are available at the Boards' website (www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au).

Student Registration

Under the National Law, all students enrolled in an approved program of study or who are undertaking a period of clinical training must be registered with the Board.

If you are enrolled in an approved program of study or clinical training you do not need to apply for registration as a student. AHPRA manages registration matters on behalf of the Board and works directly with your education provider to obtain details of all students. The Board registers you for the duration of study or clinical training, until you are no longer enrolled.

There are no fees for student registration. Student information is not recorded on the public register or open to inspection by the public.

Graduates will not be automatically registered so must submit a completed application form as a practitioner and pay the required fees.

The Board's website now provides further guidance on this topic (see www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Registration/Student-Registration.aspx).

Chairperson

Dr Mary Russell
21 August 2012