

Communiqué

Fifteenth meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

16 October 2012

At its October meeting 2012 the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the National 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.

OT pathways to practice – transitional arrangements for overseas qualified practitioners

The National Board has published a Fact Sheet '*Occupational therapy pathways to practise – transitional arrangements for overseas qualified practitioners*'. The Fact Sheet provides clear guidance on the steps required by overseas qualified practitioners to qualify for registration in Australia under the National Law¹.

Stakeholder engagement

As part of its commitment to ongoing engagement with stakeholders, the Chair and EO of the National Board met with the President and new CEO of OT Australia this month. Discussions encompassed a range of issues relevant to the Board's regulatory role and OT Australia's activities as a member organization.

The Board is committed to ongoing engagement with organizational stakeholders and individual practitioners. Practitioner events will be conducted around Australia on an ongoing basis, usually in conjunction with a scheduled Board meeting. The purpose of these events is to ensure practitioners have the opportunity receive up to date information about registration issues, ask questions and provide feedback to the Board.

Practitioner event: Melbourne November 2012

The first breakfast forum will begin in Melbourne on Tuesday 13 November – the event flyer and RSVP information is available at the National Board's website:
www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/News.aspx

Where an event may become fully booked additional presentations can be scheduled, as required.

Review of codes and guidelines

The National Board has the current common codes and guidelines available at its website:

- Advertising guidelines
- Code of Conduct
- Mandatory notification guidelines

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

As indicated in its public consultation paper (Nov 2011– Jan 2012), the National Board will be moving into line with all Boards, as part of a review of these common codes and guidelines across national boards, timed for late 2012. In the interim the published codes and guidelines provide detailed guidance: www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx.

Practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders will be able to provide feedback during the public consultation phases of the reviews. Where registration standards, guidelines and codes are common to all, or most, of the National Boards, the consultation phase will be coordinated across National Boards and will commence in 2013. .

Until then, the Board's Code of conduct and Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services provide guidance about appropriate use of social media and online behavior.

Annual Report

AHPRA and the National Boards submitted the 2012 Annual Report to Ministers by 30 September as required by the National Law. The report, expected to be publicly released on 1 November, details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the second year of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The release will be supported by the publication of a special edition of AHPRA Report. The 2012 Annual Report and AHPRA Report will both be published online.

Chairperson

Dr Mary Russell
14 September 2012