

## Communiqué

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

13 November 2012

At its November meeting 2012 the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) discussed a wide range of matters that relate 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.

#### Registration renewals – 30 November

Time is running out for occupational therapists to renew registration – due by 30 November for most practitioners. In the National Scheme, health professionals are responsible for renewing their registration on time.

Occupational therapists can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Renewal Received Confirmation](#). Individuals whose application to renew registration has been acknowledged can practise while their application is being processed.

#### Failure to renew:

Occupational therapists who do not renew their registration by 30 November 2012, or within the following one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. These practitioners should note that they are not able to practise in their profession until their fast-track registration application has been processed and approved.

Visit [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au) for FAQs on renewal and the News section for the media releases.

#### Stakeholder Meetings - Breakfast Forum, Melbourne

The first of the Board's breakfast forums to further engage with the profession about regulation was held in Melbourne on Tuesday 13 November. The Board was pleased to speak with practitioners to encourage the integration of the registration standards, codes and guidelines into daily practice. An opportunity to network was also highly valued by members and practitioners alike.

The Board will conduct similar breakfast forums in other states during 2013 as scheduled:

- 26 March – Brisbane
- 28 May – Perth
- 23 July – Adelaide
- 22 Oct – Sydney

Practitioners are encouraged to hold these dates in their diaries. Further information will be advised.

## Panel list members

The Board is calling for expressions of interest from experienced occupational therapists and community members interested in being included on an Approved Persons List for panel appointments.

Under the National Law, health panels and performance and professional standards panels are convened by National Board when required to hold hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters for individual registered occupational therapists. Such panels consist of members chosen from a list of persons approved by National Boards.

Recruitment in accordance with s183(2) of the National Law, to the extent practicable, will exclude individuals whose residence or principle place of practice is in a co-regulatory jurisdiction (i.e. NSW).

Appointments to the approved persons list are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment. The final panel list will provide the pool from which members are selected should a panel need to be convened. Panels, over time, will not always be required to be convened.

To download the candidate information pack please visit [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/) or [www.ahpra.gov.au/Health-Professions/Panel-member-recruitment.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Health-Professions/Panel-member-recruitment.aspx)

Applications should be received **by 5.00pm Friday 23 November 2012**. Late applications will not be accepted.

## Occupational therapists – Registration

All occupational therapists in Australia need to be registered with the Board to use the title 'occupational therapist', or imply that you are a registered practitioner.

This has been the case since 1 July 2012 when occupational therapy joined the National Scheme.

Registration requires annual renewal and the payment of the applicable fees. If you are successfully registered your name will appear on the public register published at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

Membership to a professional association is **not** related to registration under the National Scheme.

For registration enquires please call: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers) or visit the website to download application forms [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## Chairperson

Dr Mary Russell  
13 November 2012