

Communiqué

Meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia September 2013

The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board meets face to face each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board.

CPD partial exemption requests – Guidance and Form

The Board's *CPD Registration Standard* requires all practicing occupational therapists to complete a minimum of 30 hours of CPD per year.

The Standard allows for a practitioner to apply for **partial exemption** from the CPD standard in **special circumstances**.

The Board has decided that the 'special circumstances' partial exemption in the CPD standard will apply via a requirement that a **minimum of 12 hours of CPD** would be expected for a practitioner, where a partial exemption is requested, unless a compelling reason exists to accept fewer hours of CPD.

To assist practitioners detailed information via a new Guidance document has been published to the Board's website (see www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx). The Guidance includes a Form, which practitioners are required to complete should they wish to make a request for partial exemption from the Board's *CPD Registration Standard*.

Any request for exemption must be submitted in writing, prior to the end of the registration period (i.e. 30 November each year).

Renewal of registration for occupational therapists – due 30 November 2013

The registration renewal date for occupational therapists is now aligned across all states and territories and falls on the 30 November, of each year. AHPRA on behalf of the Board is sending out a series of reminders to practitioners with a registered email address.

To update your contact details using AHPRA's secure online service, practitioners can visit the AHPRA website www.ahpra.gov.au (go to the link *Update contact details* at the bottom of the home page).

Under the National Law all registered occupational therapists are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year.

Further details are available at the Board's website (go to the News section for a Media Release or visit the registration renewal web page which links to FAQ, the online renewal web page or the national register).

Accreditation – Standards and Programs of study

The Board has decided (in accordance with section 49 of the National Law) and has written to the OTC Program Accreditation Committee (PAC) to approve the following programs of study:

Australian Catholic University (Sydney campus)

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy – (BOT)
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours), (BOT)(Hons)

as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration until December 2016

Flinders University (Adelaide)

- Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) (Course code: 2CM133)
- Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Occupational Therapy (BHS/MOT) (Course code: 224071)

as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration until December 2018

The Board noted that the OTC PAC will monitor these programs as specified and will notify the Board should any issues arise during this process. Subject to satisfactory site visits and progress reports a further period of accreditation may be granted, pending the Board's decision.

These programs of study will be added to the Board's approved programs of study list as published at the Board's website.

Health Professions Agreement 2013-14

Under the National Law, the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia and AHPRA work in partnership to implement the National Scheme, each with specific roles, powers and responsibilities set down in the National Law.

In the interests of transparency and accountability, the Board and AHPRA will soon publish the Health Profession Agreements 2013-14 to the Board's website.

Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released its quarterly registration data. The data includes information about types of registration held, principal place of practice, endorsements, registrant age and gender.

The latest report and other statistics is available at the Board's website on the statistics page: www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx

Chairperson



Dr Mary Russell
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia