

Communiqué

Meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia October 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.

Audit of compliance with registration standards

As mentioned in the Board's September 2013 newsletter, the Board and AHPRA are fine-tuning a process and tools to audit practitioner compliance with the Board's mandatory registration standards.

Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that National Boards and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking that practitioners are meeting the standards and to provide important assurance to the community and the National Boards.

Practitioners are encouraged to be prepared. Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. All registered practitioners are required to comply with the Board's registration standards. The registration standards are published at the Board's website, see:

www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx

Further detailed information about the audit process will soon be available in a dedicated audit page on the AHPRA and Board's websites.

Online renewal now open

The registration renewal date for occupational therapists with general or non-practising registration occurs annually on the 30 November of each year.

Online renewal is now open. You can check your registration details and expiry date on the national public register: www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx. You must be registered with the Board via AHPRA in order to practise under the title of occupational therapist. Information about renewal, including FAQs, is available on the Board's website:

www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Renewal.aspx

Public consultation open – review of the common *Criminal History and English language skills registration standards*

The 14 National Boards in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) have launched a public consultation on the review of the common *Criminal History and English language skills registration standards*.

Consultation is an important part of the National Boards' engagement with registered health practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders. The feedback provided is greatly valued, and informs the Boards' development of these important documents. Submissions are due by COB 23 December 2013. Please visit the consultation page of the Board's website for further information: www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/News/Consultations.aspx

Accreditation – Standards and Programs of study

At the October 2013 meeting 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:

Edith Cowan University

- Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy) (Course code: H96)
 - Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy Honours) (Course code: H96)
- as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration until 31 December 2018

The Board's decision to approve under section 49(1) of the National Law is not subject to conditions.

Australian Catholic University (Brisbane campus)

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy – (BOccThy)
 - Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) - (BOccThy Hons)
- as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration until 31 December 2017

The Board noted that the OTC PAC will monitor these programs where 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.

The Board's decision to approve these programs under section 49(1) of the National Law is not subject to conditions.

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

Deputy Chair

Jim Carmichael
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia