

## Communiqué

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

11 December 2012

At its December meeting 2012 the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the National 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 and Notifications Committee – advisory members appointed

The National Board's Registration and Notifications Committee (RNC) is trialing a system of additional practitioner member appointments to the Committee to provide profession-specific advice to AHPRA on registration matters.

The three members who will undertake this role during the trial are:

- Cathy McBryde (QLD based)
- Jeannine Milsteed (WA based)
- Rebecca Singh (SA based)

The RNC is grateful for their interest and participation.

#### Committees of the National Board

The terms of reference for the National Board's delegated committees have been reviewed in light of strategic priorities and developing processes within the national scheme. Board members actively participate in these committees in addition to Board-related work. The National Board's committees include:

- Finance and Governance Committee (Finance and Governance issues and Accreditation issues)
- Communications Committee
- Registration standards, codes and guidelines Committee
- Registration and Notifications Committee
- Immediate Action Committee

#### Participation Opportunities

The National Board noted that a number of opportunities are currently available for practitioners / community members to contribute to the regulation of occupational therapists in Australia.

- **Panel list members – Expressions of Interest**

The National Board has extended its call for expressions of interest from experienced occupational therapists and community members interested in being included on an Approved Persons List for panel appointments. Applications from the NT and ACT are particularly invited.

Appointments to the approved persons list are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment. The final list will provide the pool from which members are selected should a panel need to be convened.

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). 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)

Deadline closing 31 January 2013

- **Community reference group**

Applications are open for the National Scheme Community Reference Group.

Individuals with strong links to the community are invited to apply. The Community Reference Group will complement the role of community members of the National Boards which regulate health practitioners in Australia. Meeting up to four times per year, the group will have a number of roles, including providing information and advice on strategies for building better knowledge in the community about health practitioner regulation.

An application pack and further details are available at the AHPRA website [www.ahpra.gov.au/News/Media-Releases/2013-01-10.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/News/Media-Releases/2013-01-10.aspx)

Applications close 9am on 11 February 2013

- **Accreditation standards – Consultation open**

The National Board's accreditation body, the Occupational Therapy Council (Australia & New Zealand) Ltd (OTC), is currently undertaking a review of the accreditation standards used for the accreditation of entry-level programs of occupational therapy education in Australia.

A copy of the consultation document, along with information on how to make a submission are available at the OTC's website [www.otccouncil.com.au](http://www.otccouncil.com.au). The public consultation paper is available via: [http://otccouncil.com.au/?page\\_id=9](http://otccouncil.com.au/?page_id=9). Submissions are welcome until 5.00pm (Perth time) 16 February 2013. The OTC welcomes feedback on any aspects of the proposed accreditation standards.

### **Quarterly registration data**

The National Board has released new quarterly data which provides interesting facts on the occupational therapy workforce. To view the data please visit the National Board's website [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx)

### **Chairperson**

Dr Mary Russell  
11 December 2012