

Communiqué

March 2015

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.

Stakeholder Breakfast Forum

The March Board meeting was held in Brisbane. The Board started the day with a breakfast presentation for local practitioners on matters relating to the registration standards of the Board. The presentation was well attended and well received by those who came along. Many of the topics covered mirrored those presented in the Board's webinar held last month. The [webinar presentation](#) is available on the Board's website.

Meeting with the Office of the Health Ombudsman

While in Brisbane the Board took the opportunity to meet with Queensland Health Ombudsman Leon Atkinson-MacEwen. Under the new co-regulatory model in Queensland, the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) receives all notifications (concerns or complaints) about a Queensland health practitioner's health, conduct or performance. The OHO determines whether it or the Board should manage the complaint.

The Board and Mr Atkinson-MacEwen discussed the types of complaints the OHO receives and how they are assessed and managed by his office.

Meeting with the Queensland Department of Health

The Board also met with Chief Allied Health Officer Julie Hulcombe from the Queensland Department of Health who presented on the key findings from the Ministerial Taskforce on health practitioner expanded scope practice.

Expert advisors

The Board is conducting a project to recruit expert advisors on various aspects of occupational therapy practice. These areas include:

- Pediatrics
- Driving
- Hand therapy
- Work Health and Safety, return to work and functional capacity evaluation
- Adult rehabilitation
- Mental health
- Home modifications, equipment prescription and attendant care / home services assessments.

The Board welcomes applications from practitioners who wish to provide advice to the Board in these specific areas. More information can be found on the [vacancies page](#) on the Board's website.

Security tip – keep your web browser updated

AHPRA and the National Boards are making changes to our websites to ensure your information is kept safe.

From early April 2015, anyone using Internet Explorer version 6 (or an older version) to view the Board's website is likely to experience difficulty accessing web pages and online services.

To avoid an interruption to service, we recommend you [upgrade to the newest version of Internet Explorer immediately](#). It is available for free from Microsoft.

If you are using a new version of Internet Explorer and are still having difficulty accessing our website please contact us to report your experience:

Call **1300 419 495** Monday to Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

Grandparenting

The Board notes that grandparenting provisions in the National Law for occupational therapists [end on 30 June 2015](#). Anyone who seeks to obtain registration as an occupational therapist under these provisions should make an application as soon as possible.

Please refer to the Board's [Grandparenting registration standard](#) for more information.

Updating contact details

It is important that you keep your registration details up to date so that you receive important reminders. Your email address will be used by AHPRA to send you important information including renewal notices. To check or update your contact details, go to the online services panel for practitioners on the homepage of the Board's website and click on the relevant link. Enter your user ID, date of birth and password to access your account. Please note that your user ID is not your registration number. If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call: 1300 419 495.

Conclusion

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

For more detail or with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Julie Brayshaw
Presiding Member
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia