

Communiqué

April 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.

Review of registration standards

As part of its review of the of its profession specific registration standards, **the National Board is keen to get feedback from practitioners.**

The Board has appointed an independent contractor, The Big Picture Strategic Services, to conduct the focus groups on the Board's behalf.

If you would like to join a focus group in late May (in Melbourne or online), call 03 9527 7978 or email info@bigpicture.net.au for more information.

Participation counts towards CPD under the category '[Engagement with the profession](#)'

End of grandparenting arrangements

From 1 July 2015, arrangements that allowed some occupational therapists to become registered as the profession joined the National Scheme¹ will expire.

Affected practitioners

Occupational therapists who have not yet applied for registration and do not meet the qualifications requirements of section 53 of the National Law² will be affected.

After 1 July 2015, the only way to become registered will be by completing an approved program of study, demonstrating substantial equivalence or doing an exam or assessment as required by the National Board.³

Only occupational therapists who are registered with the National Board can practise using protected titles or make claims to be qualified to practise a regulated health profession. Penalties exist if you pretend to be registered (or lead someone to believe that you are) when you are not. You can check your registration on the [AHPRA homepage](#) using the *Check your health practitioner is registered* form.

More information

More information on the *Grandparenting registration standard* is available on our [Registration standards](#) page.

¹ [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme](#)

² [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law](#), as in force in each state and territory.

³ Section 303 of the National Law sets out the 'grandparenting' provisions for individuals to be eligible to apply for registration to the profession but who do not hold an academic qualification gained by completing an approved program of study.

Board vacancies

Call for applications for appointment to the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

The Australian Health Ministers advisory Council are seeking applications for appointment to the following vacancies:

- Occupational Therapy Board of Australia – Chair
- Occupational Therapy Board of Australia – practitioner member from South Australia.

To be eligible for appointment as a practitioner member, you must hold current registration in the profession and be from South Australia.

To be eligible for appointment as Chair you must either be a practitioner member currently appointed to the Board or you may also express interest in being considered for this role when you apply for the practitioner member vacancy on the Board.

National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC), under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory. Appointments are for up to three years as decided by the AHWMC.

More information about the roles and the application process is included in the application form and guide. These can be downloaded from the [AHPRA website](#).

For general enquiries, email boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au or phone (03) 8708 9147.

Applications close 5.00pm AEST on Wednesday 27 May 2015.

Call for applications to the Occupational Therapy Board advisory list

The National Board invites applications from experienced practising occupational therapists interested in being included on the Board's list of advisors.

The successful candidates may be approached on an informal basis to assist the Board in activities such as conducting performance assessments of other practitioners, or providing an opinion in a focused area of practice.

The Board is seeking applications from registered occupational therapists predominately in the areas listed below, across all states and territories:

- paediatrics
- driving
- hand therapy
- work health and safety, return to work and functional capacity evaluation
- adult rehabilitation
- mental health, and
- home modifications, equipment prescription and attendant care/home services assessments.

The Board will, however, consider applicants who have experience in areas other than those listed above.

Appointments are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment. Your application will be assessed by a selection advisory panel for appointable positions.

For more information on the application process, please download the application form from the [vacancies page](#) on the Board's website. For general enquiries please contact boardappoint@ahpra.gov.au.

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, visit the [Board's homepage](#) and log in to Online Services. 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 information or questions about your registration please complete the [web enquiry form](#) or call AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Julie Brayshaw

Presiding Member

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia