

## Communiqué

May 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.

### Meeting with the Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales

The Board's May meeting was held at the Sydney office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) so the Board took the opportunity to meet with members of the Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales (the Council). It was a productive meeting during which both parties discussed issues arising from regulating the occupational therapy profession in Australia and shared information about the management of notifications under the National Law. The Board has been working on a project to analyse the notifications made about occupational therapists in Australia. Information from notifications in NSW has also been analysed and it is hoped that a joint report will be published later this year.

### Breakfast Forum – Melbourne

The Board invites all registered occupational therapists to attend a breakfast forum, preceding the Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA) Conference 2015.

The event will provide practitioners with up to date information regarding national registration as well as the opportunity to discuss regulation and encourage the integration of registration standards, codes and guidelines into daily practice.

The Board is pleased to be hosting this forum as a free event that is open to all.

Date: Wednesday 1 July 2015

Time: 7.15am – 8.30am

Location: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf VIC 3006

To register your attendance, please RSVP via email to [otbaupdate@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:otbaupdate@ahpra.gov.au) by **Friday 12 June**, noting any dietary requirements.

### Work plan for 2015/2016

The Board settled its work plan for the 2015/2016 financial year. It is shaping up to be a busy period for the Board as a number of large projects are included in the work plan along with the ongoing work of the Board. The work plan will be published on AHPRA's website in the Health Profession Agreement for 2015/2016 in coming months.

## Review of ongoing projects

The Board noted ongoing work being done for the review of the registration standards regarding continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements. It was pleased to see the project is progressing and meeting timelines.

The Board also noted a progress update on the project to develop *Threshold competency standards for occupational therapists in Australia*. Early progress has been made and Board representatives were appointed to the committees that will provide profession-specific input for this project.

## End of grandparenting arrangements

On 30 June 2015, the grandparenting provisions in the National Law that allowed some occupational therapists to become registered when the profession joined the National Scheme<sup>1</sup> in 2010 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 Law<sup>2</sup> will be affected.

From 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 Board.<sup>3</sup>

Only occupational therapists who are registered with the 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* search.

### More information

More information on the *grandparenting registration standard* is available on the [Registration standards](#) page or the [Board's website](#).

## Conclusion

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and its expectations of practitioners on its website at [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## Julie Brayshaw

Presiding Member

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

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<sup>1</sup> [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme](#)

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.