

Communiqué

July 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.

Notifications webinar

The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia and the Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales have completed a project that analyses the reasons people make notifications about the conduct and performance of occupational therapists. The Board will conduct a webinar on [24 August 2015 at 6.30pm AEST](#) to provide a summary of the data obtained from the project. Insights and recommendations as to key areas of risk that occupational therapists and occupational therapy educators should be aware of in occupational therapy practice will also be highlighted.

Breakfast forum – Melbourne

Ms Julie Brayshaw provided a verbal report about the Board's breakfast presentation held on 1 July 2015 before the Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA) National Conference in Melbourne. The Board was pleased to note that the presentation was well attended. Attendees gave feedback that the material provided about national registration, and the opportunity to discuss regulation and encourage the integration of registration standards, codes and guidelines into daily practice, was helpful and informative.

Attendance at Australian Medical Council interprofessional education workshop

The attending Board member gave a verbal presentation about a recent interprofessional education workshop held by the Australian Medical Council in collaboration with the Australian Pharmacy Council, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council and the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia.

The workshop brought together representatives from a number of organisations involved in the regulation, accreditation and education of health professions in Australia. Its aim was to improve delivery of coordinated interprofessional education between health professions in Australia. The Board is fully supportive of cross professional educational initiatives.

Audit of registration standards

The National Law requires the Board to set ethical and professional standards for the occupational therapy profession and gives the Board the power to hold practitioners to account against those standards.

The Board's audit into compliance with the following mandatory registration standards:

- continuing professional development
- recency of practice
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements, and
- criminal history

has started and is progressing well. Overall compliance has been good to date and the Board will report on any significant issues that arose as part of the audit.

Registration standards review

The Board received a project update regarding its review of the registration standards for continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements. The preparatory phase of the review has been completed with a report regarding the literature review and focus groups being submitted.

The Board would like to thank all the practitioners who took the time to participate in the focus groups and provide their feedback regarding these standards.

New threshold competency standards for the profession

The project to develop new threshold competency standards for the occupational therapy profession in Australia has started. The competency standards reference group met for the first time on 27 July 2015 and the Board noted the quality and breadth of experience of the group's members.

Applications for positions on the threshold competency standards advisory panel have closed and the Board expects to notify successful candidates in the coming weeks. The advisory panel will be called upon to provide professional knowledge and experience to assist in the development of new threshold competency standards for the profession.

The Board looks forward to working with both of these groups on this important project.

Conclusion

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

Julie Brayshaw

Presiding Member

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia