

## Communiqué

### August 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.

### Fees and health profession agreement

The Board's health profession agreement for 2015/2016, which includes the new fee schedule for occupational therapists, will be published soon. The health profession agreement can be found on the [Board's website](#). Each year the Board and AHPRA publish a health profession agreement that details the services provided by AHPRA that enable the Board to carry out its functions under the National Law.

The Board is pleased to have been able to reduce the fees for occupational therapists to \$130, which is \$30 less than in the previous year. The annual renewal fee will apply from 9 September 2015 and cover the registration period for most practitioners of 1 December 2015 to 30 November 2016.

### Requirements for renewal

The renewal process for occupational therapists will start in coming weeks. The Board is committed to ensuring that all occupational therapists know and understand their obligations under the National Law and take appropriate steps to prepare for renewal of their registration.

The following four standards apply to registered occupational therapists. Renewing registrants are required to declare whether or not they meet the standards.

#### 1. Continuing professional development (CPD)

Occupational therapists are required to undertake 30 hours of CPD each year, noting the required categories of hours and the maximum hours in those categories that can be claimed.

#### 2. Professional indemnity insurance (PII)

Occupational therapists are required to ensure they have professional indemnity insurance cover to the required standard for their practice. That cover may be their own or they may be covered by third-party arrangements, such as by an employer or voluntary organisation.

#### 3. Recency of practice (RoP)

Occupational therapists practice must be recent, meaning they must have practised for six months full-time equivalent within the previous five years.

#### 4. Criminal history

Occupational therapists are required to declare any changes in their criminal history status since they last renewed or obtained registration.

Practitioners selected for audit will be required to provide evidence of their compliance with these registration standards and, if asked, produce evidence in support of any declaration made at renewal.

### **Central Queensland University program removed from approved list**

The Board received accreditation advice that the stand alone Bachelor of Occupational Therapy program at Central Queensland University's Rockhampton and Bundaberg campuses is no longer being taught. It was accordingly removed from the list of approved programs for general registration as an occupational therapist. Previous graduates with this qualification will still be eligible to apply for general registration.

### **AHPRA and the National Boards welcome ministers' response to National Scheme review report**

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council met on 7 August 2015 at the COAG Health Council meeting to consider the final report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The purpose of the independent review was to identify what is working well in the National Scheme and the opportunities to improve and strengthen the operation of the scheme to regulate health professions to protect the public.

Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally.

More information about the review can be found on the [COAG Health Council](#) website and on [AHPRA'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