

Communiqué

December 2015 meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

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 functions within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board.

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. A suite of consultation material relating to these standards is being developed and the Board anticipates preliminary consultation will start in early 2016.

University of Western Sydney program added to list of approved programs

The Board has agreed to add the Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) to be offered at the University of Western Sydney, to its list of approved programs. This decision was based on advice received from the [Occupational Therapy Council \(Australia and New Zealand\)](#).

New threshold competency standards for the profession

The Board is undertaking a project to develop a new set of threshold competency standards for the occupational therapy profession. It is intended these new standards will reflect current practices and expectations, and will be suitable for use in clinical, educational and regulatory contexts.

Meetings of the Competency Standards Reference Group and the Competency Standards Advisory Panel took place in early December 2016. The Board recognises that subject matter expertise is crucial in the development of new threshold competencies for the profession and welcomes the quality and breadth of experience of the members on both groups.

More information about the Terms of Reference for both groups and their membership are available on the Board's [website](#).

Call for applications

The Board is seeking applications for appointment to the Board's list of approved persons for appointment to panels. Under the National Law the Board convenes health panels and performance and professional standards panels when required to hold hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters for individual occupational therapists. Such panels consist of members chosen from the Board's list of approved persons.

The Board is seeking registered occupational therapists with five years experience in the various aspects of occupational therapy practice. These areas include:

- paediatrics
- driving

- hand therapy
- aged care
- adult rehabilitation
- mental health, and
- vocational rehabilitation

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.

Keeping in touch with the Board

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. Practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policy and guidelines affecting their profession.

Julie Brayshaw

Presiding member

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

15 December 2015