

## Communiqué

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### June 2016 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.

#### **Revised competency standards development project**

Significant progress on this project has been made. The proposed draft standards incorporate a revision to the structure and content of the standards. In developing the draft the Board has worked with its appointed consultants, Carramar Consulting, as well as members of both its reference group and advisory panel. The Board is committed to working with the profession, the education sector and other interested stakeholders to ensure the draft competency standards are reflective of the breadth of occupational therapy practice as well as being suitable across a range of different contexts.

The Board anticipates starting preliminary consultation in the next month. The Board values feedback on the proposals from all its key and interested stakeholders. The Board welcomes comment on both the content and structure of the draft competency standards and looks forward to working with the profession on this important piece of work.

The Board intends to release further details about the project as work progresses. Should you be interested to read early details about the development of the project this information is available on the Board's [website](#).

#### **Registration standards review**

Review of the Board's professional indemnity insurance, continuing professional development and recency of practice standards, as part of the cross-professional review on registration standards, will soon start with preliminary consultation. Consultation papers will be sent to key stakeholders. Feedback at this early stage will help to inform the development of the revised registration standards.

The Board welcomes feedback from key and interested stakeholders both during the preliminary and public consultation phases of this review.

#### **Standards compliance audit**

The Board has commenced work to complete this year's audit to measure compliance against the Board's mandatory 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 is pleased to note compliance with audits in previous years has been very good and hopes the forthcoming audit will also demonstrate appropriate compliance with the Board's standards.

## Queensland to host education provider forum

Following on from the productive and informative session the Board held with Victorian education providers of occupational therapy programs in May, the Board agreed to plan for a similar event in Queensland in September 2016. As part of the agenda, the Board will be looking to discuss its work with education providers and explore the obligations of education providers in the context of the National Law. The Board will also be taking the opportunity to discuss with education providers their experiences of existing accreditation arrangements.

## Board engagement with new graduates

The Board is exploring opportunities for engaging with new graduates of occupational therapy. It is the Board's responsibility to ensure graduates are eligible, qualified and suitable to hold registration in the profession. The Board is keen to explore opportunities to build on how it communicates with new graduates to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the National Law.

Further updates will be provided in future communiqués and on the Board's website.

## National Restrictions Library

Restrictions (conditions and undertakings) are a primary regulatory tool used to protect the public. Regulators place restrictions on registration as necessary in the course of an investigation and/or disciplinary procedure or as a result of a disciplinary procedure. Restrictions may also be imposed at the time of registration or renewal of registration, for various reasons.

A National Restrictions Library has been developed to provide a consolidated structure for common restrictions used across the regulatory functions of all of the National Boards and to support:

- consistency in recommendations from AHPRA to the National Boards and delegates
- consistency in the restrictions appearing on the national public register of health practitioners, and
- a best practice approach to monitoring compliance with restrictions.

More information about the National Restrictions Library, including a copy of the contents, can be found on [AHPRA'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](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://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**

Chair

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

21 June 2016