

Communiqué

September 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.

Planning for 2017/2018

The Board is continuing its planning process to develop a regulatory plan for the 2017/2018 financial year. This activity is necessary for all of the regulatory partners in the National Scheme to develop and align their work and to avoid unnecessary duplication. All National Boards are committed to being as efficient and effective as they can be in their work.

Revised competency standards development project

The Board was pleased to receive and consider the feedback on the revised competency standards. The feedback received has been informative and insightful and the Board will be continuing to refine the standards to ensure they are reflective of occupational therapy practice.

Preparations for public consultation on the revised standards are progressing well and the Board is hoping to engage with occupational therapists working in a range of practice areas, settings and locations across the country. If you are interested in participating in the Board's public consultation on the revised draft competency standards, please email otboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au. Your details will be recorded and we will be in touch once further details on the consultation process have been finalised.

Engaging with education providers

The Board was pleased to host a focus session with Queensland education providers of occupational therapy programs. The session was productive and informative; the Board was able to provide updates on its project work and discuss with education providers how this impacts on the education sector. The Board also took the opportunity to explore with education providers the issues and obligations of education providers regarding notifications in the context of the National Law, noting that this is an area that is often difficult to navigate. The Board notes that this was its second forum with education providers and they are keen to continue in other jurisdictions.

Graduating soon? Webinar

The Board was pleased to hear that registration for its upcoming 'Graduating Soon?' Webinar has been high. The Board Chair will be hosting the webinar on 28 September 2016 and looks forward to talking with soon to be graduates as they embark on their occupational therapy careers.

If students are unable to attend the webinar in real-time, a recording will be freely available on the Board's website two weeks after the broadcast.

University of Newcastle programs of study approved

The Board has approved the accreditation of two programs from the University of Newcastle: the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) and the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy.

This decision was based on advice received from the [Occupational Therapy Council \(Australia and New Zealand\)](#).

OT Week 2016

The Board noted that Occupational Therapy Australia's annual OT week will be commencing on 16 October 2016. Resources and details about the week are available on the Occupational Therapy Australia [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

Chair

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

27 September 2016