

Communiqué

February 2018 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.

Board appointments and reappointments

On 30 January 2018 appointments and reappointments to the Board were announced by Health Ministers. The Board would like to acknowledge the contribution and commitment of outgoing members, Dr Katherine Moore and Ms Louisa Scott, who were members of the Board since its inception. Their breadth of experience and skills facilitated the transition of the profession to national regulation and the achievement of a number of significant milestones in the regulation of the profession. The Board thanked them for their contributions.

The Board also welcomed Dr Justin Scanlan and Mr Areti Metuamate as new Board members. The Board is looking forward to working with them over the coming years.

For a full list of current Board members, please visit the [Board's website](#).

2018/19 regulatory planning

In January 2018 the Board began work on its regulatory plan for 2018/19, as part of its annual planning cycle. The Board has defined a set of draft strategic initiatives that it will seek to achieve during 2018/19 and will finalise these initiatives over the coming months.

This is necessary to ensure that the Board's activities align with and avoid unnecessary duplication of work that is being done within other areas of the National Scheme.

Australian occupational therapy competency standards (AOTCS) 2018

On 20 February 2018 the Board launched the *Australian occupational therapy competency standards (AOTCS) 2018*. The release of these standards is the result of a two-year research and collaborative project with practitioners, educators, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Network, Indigenous Allied Health Australia, the Board's accreditation authority, its expert Reference and Advisory Group and AHPRA's Consumer Reference Group.

The new standards replace the *Australian competency standards for new graduate occupational therapists (ACSOT) 2010* which were developed by Occupational Therapy Australia.

The new standards focus on four conceptual areas of occupational therapy practice: professionalism, knowledge and learning, occupational therapy process and practice and communication. Each of these is supported by a number of practice behaviours which address specific core competencies.

The competency standards also specifically acknowledge the need for occupational therapists to enhance their cultural responsiveness and capabilities for practice with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The new competency standards can be used by:

- **employers** to determine what should be expected of a competent occupational therapy workforce
- **education providers** to inform the design of programs of study to produce safe and competent new graduates, and
- the **public and consumers** to identify the expected behaviours that an occupational therapist should demonstrate.

For more information about the new competency standards, including resources that can be used within practice settings please visit: www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/competencies.

Quarterly registration data released

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia's occupational therapy workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants. Registration data from June 2017 is now published on the Board's [Statistic's webpage](#).

Program accreditation

The Board approved the accreditation of the following programs of study from Griffith University:

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at the Gold Coast Campus until 31 December 2022
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) at the Gold Coast Campus until 31 December 2022
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at the Nathan campus until 31 December 2021
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) at the Nathan campus until 31 December 2021

The Board approved the accreditation of the following programs of study at the University of Sydney:

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) until 31 December 2022
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) (Honours) until 31 December 2022
- Master of Occupational Therapy until 31 December 2022

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

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AHPRA and the National Boards have made changes to our websites to ensure your information is kept safe.

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If you are using a new version of Internet Explorer and are still having difficulty accessing our website please contact us to report your experience. Call **1300 419 495** Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

Follow AHPRA on social media

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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. We encourage you to refer to the site for news and updates on policy and guidelines affecting your profession.

Julie Brayshaw

Chair

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

20 February 2018