

Communiqué

08 October 2018

September 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.

Webinar – Graduating Soon?

Julie Brayshaw, Board Chair hosted a one-hour webinar for new or soon-to-be graduates about to embark on their occupational therapy careers. She spoke about the role of the Board and AHPRA, the registration process and obligations of registered occupational therapists.

There were over 220 participants with over 400 registrants. The Board was pleased to see the great interest from the participants and to have an opportunity to interact with new or upcoming graduates from across the country.

The Board will publish a recording of the webinar and material to support new graduates on its website shortly.

The Board is keen to continue to host webinars for new or soon-to-be graduates on a regular basis, and potentially webinars on other topics for all registered occupational therapists.

Australian occupational therapy competency standards

The Board's Australian occupational therapy competency standards (AOTCS), published in February 2018, will take effect on 1 January 2019. The Board is continuing its work on the development of supporting tools to help occupational therapists, students, employers, members of the public and others to understand and apply the AOTCS.

The Board will provide further update on this work shortly.

Consultation – proposed reforms to the National Law

Health Ministers are consulting on some proposed reforms to the National Law, which provides the framework for health practitioner regulation in Australia.

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) is leading the consultation, in the second stage of the reform process. The first amendments in *The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017* have already been made and are now being implemented.

The Board is working with AHPRA and other National Boards to propose a joint submission to the proposed reforms to the National Law.

New results format for OET English language test

AHPRA and the Board have started accepting an updated format of test results for the Occupational English Test (OET).

All National Boards have a registration standard for English language skills, which require applicants for initial registration to demonstrate English language skills to be suitable for registration. The OET is one of the English language skills tests accepted by the Board.

The English language level being tested by OET remains the same with a minimum score of B, or a minimum score of 350 (the equivalent of a B) on the new numerical scale in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) to meet the standards. Test takers are not being measured differently, with the only change being the way the OET scores are described. As such, the National Board's [English language skills registration standards](#) referring to OET have not changed.

AHPRA and the Board have updated internal systems and relevant application forms to accommodate and reflect the new numerical scale.

Call for applications for appointment to AHPRA Agency Management Committee

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme regulates over 700,000 registered health practitioners and 160,000 registered students. It also accredits over 740 approved programs of study delivered by over 330 education providers.

Applications are now sought for appointments to the governing board of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Multiple vacancies exist for:

- members with expertise in health and/or education and training, and
- members with expertise in business and administration.

Applications are also sought for the role of Chair.

All appointments are made by the Ministerial Council for up to three years under the National Law.

For information on the role, eligibility requirements and to download the application form, visit <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Agency-Management-Committee.aspx>

For enquiries, please contact statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au

Applications must be received by **5pm AEDT on Monday 29 October 2018** to statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au.

Are your contact details up-to-date?

It is important that your contact details are up-to-date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. You can check your details via the Login icon at the top right of the AHPRA website. Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to your account junk box.

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



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
08 October 2018