

## Communiqué

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7 November 2018

### October 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.

#### ***Australian occupational therapy competency standards 2018***

The *Australian occupational therapy competency standards 2018* (the competency standards) take effect on 1 January 2019 and outline professional behaviours all occupational therapists must demonstrate to practise safely and ethically. The competency standards affect occupational therapists working across all practice settings, including research, education, management and other roles not involving direct contact with clients. They 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 Board is continuing its work on the development of supporting tools to help occupational therapists, students, employers and the public in understanding the competency standards.

#### **Meeting with the Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales**

The Board with the President, Deputy President and members of the Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales (the Council). This meeting was a valuable opportunity to provide an overview of the Board's strategic plan for 2018-19 and an update on some key projects such as the implementation of the Board's competency standards and the review of the core registration standards as part of a multi-profession review project.

The Board hopes to continue its engagement and share learnings and knowledge with the Council where possible.

#### **Program accreditation**

The Board agreed to approve the following accredited programs of study:

- Master of Occupational Therapy offered by Bond University
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy offered by Southern Cross University at Coffs Harbour NSW campus, and
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) offered by Southern Cross University at Coffs Harbour NSW campus.

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

The [AHPRA register of approved programs of study](#) has been amended accordingly.

## Renewal of registration

More than 21,000 occupational therapists holding general or non-practising registration with the Board are required to renew their registration. Registered occupational therapists can apply for the renewal of their registration [online](#).

Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. This is outlined in [the National Law](#).

A [fees schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

Occupational therapists, whose application for general registration is received on time or during the following one-month late period, can continue practising while their application is processed.

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2018 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the national [Register of practitioners](#) and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia.

## 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 an account junk mailbox.

## 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](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

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