

Communiqué

Fourteenth meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

14 September 2012

The fourteenth meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on Friday 14 September concurrently with the annual AHPRA and National Boards' combined meeting.

This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the progress in the work of the national board.

National registration and accreditation scheme combined meeting

The purpose of this annual meeting is to take stock, share ideas and innovations, identify future challenges and identify actions to make needed change to the national scheme. It brings together members of all fourteen National Boards, representatives of NSW councils, members of the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA staff, and representatives of the different professions' accreditation authorities.

For the 2012 meeting representatives from each of the National Boards' accrediting authorities and from each of the New Zealand Councils were also invited to participate.

This year's meeting saw a focus on a range of important regulatory issues such as practitioner performance and competence, engaging with health consumers, and identifying the opportunities for future work with key external stakeholders including Health Workforce Australia and government.

Review of Codes and Guidelines

In May 2012 the National Board had agreed to publish to its website the versions common for the ten health professions then currently regulated of the:

- *Guidelines for Advertising of Regulated Health Services;*
- *Guidelines for Mandatory Notifications; and the*
- *Code of Conduct*

As noted then, these guidelines and code were scheduled for review at the end of their three-year term, which has now been scheduled for late 2012. Accordingly, consultation versions will soon be released for public comment and stakeholder input. The National Board appreciated the comments the profession and other stakeholders provided earlier this year and will ensure these comments are included in this next consultation.

National Board Activity – Delegated Committees

In addition to the National Board's monthly meetings and out of session activities members continue to work on the National Board's delegated committees.

The Registration and Notifications Committee continues to meet regularly to consider applications for registration. To facilitate the committee's function three practitioner members will soon be appointed for a three-month trial to provide profession-specific input, in an advisory capacity on special assignment, as approved by the Chair. These additional members will assist AHPRA and the Registration and Notifications Committee provide timely advice and decisions for practitioners.

Panel List Members

The National Board will soon be calling for expressions of interest from experienced occupational therapists and community members interested in being included on an Approved Persons List for panel appointments.

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), health panels and performance and professional standards panels are convened by National Boards when required to hold hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters for individual registered occupational therapists. Such panels consist of members chosen from a list of persons approved by National Boards.

Appointments to the approved persons list are for up to three years, with eligibility for reappointment, and are expected to commence on 1 January 2013. Further details on the full recruitment and appointment process will be promoted via the National Board's website and various channels.

To keep up to date with the National Board's activities and for future consultations or changes to its policies, codes, guidelines etc we highly recommend you register to receive email updates. Visit the "about us" section of the National Board's website

www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/About/Receive-Updates.aspx.

Chairperson

Dr Mary Russell
14 September 2012