

## Communiqué

### Meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia August 2013

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 function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board.

#### National Scheme – Combined Meeting

The National Scheme's annual Combined Meeting was held during 30-31 August at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The purpose of this annual meeting is to take stock, share ideas and innovations, identify future challenges and any actions needed to bring improvements to policy and planning. Attendees included all fourteen National Boards, members of the AHPRA Agency Management Committee, representatives of the NSW Health Professional Councils Authority, AHPRA staff and members of the different profession's accreditation authorities.

The 2013 theme was 'Regulating in the public interest'. Plenary speaker Prof David Studdert, Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and Professor at the University of Melbourne engaged participants with his presentation on 'Using notifications data to inform policy, practice and prevention'. Other sessions provided discussion around 'Regulatory philosophy', 'Workforce reform', the 'Safety challenge in health' and 'Performance assessment'.

Attendees were encouraged to share ideas, knowledge and to network with colleagues.

#### Newsletter Issue # 2

The Board has published its second Newsletter to its website (September 2013) as both a PDF and text version (see: [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx)).

The Board encourages people to read the newsletter for important information directly relevant to the practice and regulation of occupational therapy in Australia.

#### Notifications – data analysis and KPIs

Recent changes to notifications management have been introduced across the National Scheme (outside NSW). The changes include a new framework to strengthen consistency, timeliness and robust decision making in notifications management to ensure the Board's regulatory effort is invested wisely and effectively.

The framework includes a particular emphasis on measurement and reporting. As a result the Board was able to consider data at its August meeting across state and territory systems and processes. Such improved measurement and reporting gives the Board clear data on notifications from lodgement, through to assessment and the decisions and actions arising.

State and territory managers, all Directors of Notification and the Director of National Committees are working closely to ensure the implementation of the notifications framework. The Board looks forward to reviewing regular Notifications key performance indicator reports.

### **Accreditation – Standards and Programs of study**

The Board has decided (in accordance with section 49 of the National Law) and has given written to the OTC Program Accreditation Committee (PAC) to approve the following programs of study:

#### **Central Queensland University (CQU) - Rockhampton and Bundaberg campuses**

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy - B OT
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) - B OT (Hons)

as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration until December 2016

#### **Australian Catholic University (Melbourne campus)**

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy, BOccThy
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours), BOccThy (Hons)

as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration until December 2015

The Board noted that the OTC PAC will monitor these programs as specified and will notify the Board should any issues arise during this process. Subject to satisfactory site visits and progress reports a further period of accreditation may be granted, pending the Board's decision.

These programs of study will be added to the Board's approved programs of study list as published at the Board's website.

### **Chairperson**



Dr Mary Russell  
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia