

Communiqué

February 2016 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.

Registration standards review

The Board received a project update regarding its review of the registration standards for continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements. A suite of consultation material relating to these standards is being finalised and the Board anticipates preliminary consultation will start in March 2016.

James Cook University accreditation of programs

The Board has agreed to approve the accreditation of the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) to be offered at James Cook University, to its list of approved programs. This decision was based on advice received from the [Occupational Therapy Council \(Australia and New Zealand\)](#).

Health practitioner regulation: Learn how you're protected

A new video and an accompanying infographic explaining the Australia-wide scheme that is in place to protect members of the public was released by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in December.

Both resources are available on the [What we do page](#) of the AHPRA website or read the [news item](#) on the Board website for more information. The video can also be watched on AHPRA's YouTube channel.

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will publish in late March a report of its work in the regulation of the occupational therapy profession under the National Scheme during 2014/15.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme.

Local data summaries from a National Scheme

The National Boards and AHPRA have published [reports for each state and territory](#) on the National Scheme.

The reports provide a unique insight on local outcomes within a scheme for which the core focus is protection of the public. They are for the 2014/15 year of the scheme.

The summaries provide local data on registration types, notifications (complaints) and mandatory notifications for the regulated health professions, for each state and territory.

National awareness campaign

You may have seen the beginning of the AHPRA national awareness campaign. **Know your obligations**, the first of three phases, directed at employers of health practitioners, launched at the close of last year. The message has been shared over social media through targeted ads resulting in a doubling of our online community.

The next phase of the campaign is targeted at practitioners. Under the headline of **The not-so-small print**, practitioners are encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners. Advertisements will be rolled out later this month across a mix of social media, industry publications and newsletters.

The final phase will be directed at the public to increase awareness of the [national register of practitioners](#).

Employer obligations

If you employ registered health practitioners, you have an important obligation to ensure that they hold current registration and that you understand your mandatory notification requirements under the National Law.

AHPRA has published [resources](#) to help you understand and meet your obligations, which are designed to complement your recruitment requirements and processes. These materials state exactly what your obligations are and it is important that you are familiar with them.

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

Presiding member

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

23 February 2015