

## Communiqué

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### May 2017 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.

#### Revised competency standards development project

Public consultation on the revised draft competency standards closed on 30 March 2017.

The Board has finalised changes to be made to the revised draft standards, following feedback from public consultation. The Board's consultants Carramar Consulting are now in the processing of incorporating considered feedback into a final version of the standards.

Planning for the implementation of the revised standards is underway and the Board intends to release any necessary supporting materials towards the end of 2017 or in early 2018. The Board will finalise the revised standards over the coming month and looks forward to engaging with key stakeholders in the months to follow to ensure a smooth implementation.

More information will be shared with the profession as finalisation and implementation of the standards progresses.

#### 2017/18

As part of the Board's annual planning cycle, it began reviewing its initial proposal for its regulatory plan for 2017/18. The Board has defined a draft set of strategic initiatives that will seek to achieve over the 2017/18 financial year and will work to finalise these initiatives at its upcoming meeting.

The Board notes that this activity is necessary to ensure that its activities align with and avoid unnecessary duplication with work that may be undertaken in other areas of the National Scheme.

#### Breakfast forum

The Board invites all registered occupational therapists to attend a breakfast forum preceding the Occupational Therapy Australia 2017 National Conference.

I will be hosting the forum and will provide updates on the Board's project work and up to date information on trends and issues in notifications. At the end of the forum there will be a Q&A session with me.

The details of the forum are:

**Date:** Wednesday, 19 July 2017

**Time:** 7:30am- 8:25am

**Location:** Perth Convention and Exhibition centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth WA 6000

This is a free event that is open to all. Places are limited, so if you are interested in attendance please register via email to [otbaupdate@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:otbaupdate@ahpra.gov.au) by **23 June 2017** to secure your space.

## Audit of registration standards

The Board would like to remind practitioners that it will be conducting random audits into compliance with the following mandatory registration standards:

- continuing professional development
- recency of practice
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements, and
- criminal history.

If you are selected for audit, you will receive an audit notice in the mail from AHPRA. This will include a checklist that outlines what supporting documentation you will be required to submit in order to demonstrate that you have met the standard(s) being audited. Further details about the audit process can be found on the [Board's website](#).

## Registration opens for CLEAR

The Fifth International Congress on Professional and Occupational Regulation will be held this November in Melbourne, Australia. Join regulatory stakeholders from around the world as they share global perspectives on licensure and regulation.

Additional information about the conference is on the AHPRA [website](#).

## Are your contact details up-to-date?

It is important your contact details are up-to-date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. You can check or update your contact information by logging in to the [online services portal](#) on the AHPRA website. Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an 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](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  
23 May 2017