

## Media release

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20 November 2012

### Time running out for occupational therapists to renew registration by 30 November

The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) today urged those occupational therapists who are yet to renew their registration - due 30 November for most practitioners - to renew on time.

Board Chair Dr Mary Russell said the number of occupational therapists who have already renewed online was pleasing.

“To date, 55% of the 7,309\* occupational therapists due to renew their registration by 30 November 2012 have already renewed online which is a fantastic result,” Dr Russell said.

Occupational therapists due to renew their registration by 30 November 2012 number 3,561 in New South Wales, 3,072 in Victoria, 59 in Queensland, 48 in Western Australia, 40 in South Australia, 202 in Tasmania, 176 in ACT and 141 in the Northern Territory. 10 practitioners have not listed a principal place of practice.

“To ensure that everyone who wants to renew their registration does so, hard copy letters have been sent to occupational therapists who have already received email reminders but are yet to renew online,” Dr Russell said.

“In the National Scheme, health professionals are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible.”

Dr Russell said once AHPRA received a practitioner’s application for renewal of registration they would stop receiving renewal reminders. A new online facility to ‘opt out’ of renewing registration also puts a stop to renewal reminders.

“Occupational therapists who do not want to renew their registration can simply ignore the reminders or go online to ‘opt out’ of renewing,” she said.

“This new online facility will provide the Board and AHPRA with good data on the number of occupational therapists who have chosen to opt out, to distinguish them from individuals who intended to renew, but did not do so on time.

“I urge anyone due to renew by 30 November who has not yet done so to act quickly.”

Dr Russell noted that there were significant consequences for individual occupational therapists who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, occupational therapists who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Registers of Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise their profession in Australia until a new application is approved.

“Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear – renew on time. The quickest and easiest way to do this is online,” Dr Russell said.

**Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency**

Occupational therapists can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Renewal Received Confirmation](#). Individuals whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

The listing on the National Registers of Practitioners is evidence for employers that a health professional is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed. Alternatively, occupational therapists can print off a copy of their registration certificate using AHPRA's online services at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

**Failure to renew:**

Occupational therapists who forget to renew their registration by 30 November 2012, or within the following one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. These practitioners should note that they are not able to practise in their profession until their fast-track registration application has been processed and approved.

## Renew online – Register on time

*\* Not all registered occupational therapists in Australia need to renew by 30 November. Practitioners who transitioned into the National Scheme from state boards in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia have different renewal dates.*

*For more information*

- Visit [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au) for FAQs on renewal
- Occupational therapists can check their registration details and expiry date on the Register of Practitioners at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au). If they have to renew by 30 November, this will be the registration expiry date on their record.
- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200