

Communiqué

Meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

30 August 2011

The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) met for the second time on 23 August 2011. The Board considered a number of key issues relating to the registration and accreditation of occupational therapists

Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, registration and accreditation will become mandatory for occupational therapists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, and medical radiation practitioners from 1 July 2012.

Stakeholder consultation on draft registration standards

The Board agreed to release a series of draft registration standards for stakeholder consultation over a six week period from 29 August 2011 until 7 October 2011. These standards will include the five mandatory standards covering professional indemnity insurance, matters about the criminal history of applicants for registration, requirements for continuing professional development (CPD), requirements for English language skills and requirements in relation to recency of practice. To assist practitioners in understanding the CPD standard the Board has also drafted accompanying guidelines.

The Board also agreed to release an additional standard for consultation over the same period covering 'grandparenting arrangements' which outline how the Board will manage transitional arrangements for recognition of qualifications for registration.

Stakeholder feedback will be important in informing the development of the final draft standards which the Board will submit to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval.

Making a submission

All the draft standards will be available on the Board's interim website at www.ahpra.gov.au/NRAS.aspx from 29 August 2011 along with details on how to make a submission to the Board.

The Board will publish all submissions, unless marked as confidential, on its interim website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders.

Communications Strategy

The Board acknowledged that an effective communication strategy incorporating practitioners, governments, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and other key stakeholders will be crucial to the commencement of the new national arrangements by 1 July 2012. The Board agreed that further consideration and development of its communication strategy will be a key priority at its September meeting.

Mary Russell

Chair

30 August 2011