

## Communiqué

### Seventh meeting of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

21 February 2012

At its first meeting for 2012, the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) discussed a wide range of matters that will impact on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the progress in the work of the national board.

#### Update on registration standards

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has approved the Board's registration standards. These are now available on the Board's website, along with some Frequently Asked Questions which provide an overview of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme; registering with the National Board; registration standards and student registration at [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au).

#### Registration Fees

The Board has set the fees for general registration for application and renewal. The Board has also confirmed the fees for the other registration categories (i.e. non-practising, limited and provisional). These fee levels have been communicated to Ministers and will be published to the website when the additional registration category forms are available.

#### Registration applications now open

Registration applications are now open for practitioners joining the National Scheme in July.

From 1 July 2012, occupational therapists must be registered with their National Board to practise anywhere in Australia:

Registration application forms for occupational therapists are published on each National Board website through [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) and for OTs via [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au).

The National Board encourages occupational therapists to help spread this important message about the requirement to register, and to refer anyone with questions about this to the website.

## Communication

The Board is keenly aware of the mounting interest among both registered and unregistered practitioners as the time moves towards 1 July. Information forums have been held, targeting metropolitan and regional areas of NSW and VIC to inform the large number of currently unregistered practitioners in those jurisdictions.

A PowerPoint presentation with voiceover has also been made available on the Board's website, for those practitioners who are unable to attend a forum and for those in rural and remote regions who were unable to participate via videoconference.

The Board encourages all unregistered occupational therapists to submit their applications for registration by 30 March 2012. This will assist the Board and AHPRA to manage and process the large volume of applications anticipated for 1 July 2012.

For those practitioners who are currently registered (SA, WA, NT, QLD) The Board strongly encourages all registrants whose renewal of registration falls due in June 2012, to renew with their current board well before the end of June to facilitate their transition in to the national scheme. Information sessions for practitioners in these jurisdictions will begin shortly.

## Update on codes and guidelines

Feedback submitted to the Board's consultation on its draft code of conduct for registered health practitioners, the guideline for advertising, and the guideline for mandatory notifications was considered by the Board. The code and guidelines will be published on the Board's website.

## Supervision guidelines

The Board is developing guidelines for supervised practice including a supervised practice plan. Public consultation will be undertaken before these guidelines are finalised. Details will be placed on the Board's website.

## General matters

The Board's website has received an increase in traffic over the past three months indicating that there is a high demand for accurate information. Further information on the work of the Board can be found at [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au).

Chairperson

Dr Mary Russell

21 February 2012