

## Media release

5 October 2012

### Occupational therapists reminded to renew registration by 30 November

The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) today urged occupational therapists to renew online and on time.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is sending a series of emails to occupational therapists whose registration will expire on 30 November, reminding them to renew their registration with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board). Where an email address is not available, practitioners will receive renewal notification by mail.

Board chair Dr Mary Russell said 'Occupational therapists joined the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July this year – in some states this is the first time the profession has been regulated.'

The date for renewing registration is different in some states. Because some practitioners transitioned into the National Scheme on 1 July from local boards with different renewal cycles, it will take some time for the renewal dates to align nationally. Eventually, the annual registration renewal date for all occupational therapists will be 30 November.

For the coming year, the renewal dates for occupational therapists will be:

- ACT 30 November 2012
- New South Wales 30 November 2012
- Northern Territory 30 November 2012
- Tasmania 30 November 2012
- Victoria 30 November 2012
- South Australia 30 September 2012
- Queensland 30 June 2013
- Western Australia 30 June 2013

Dr Russell said 'In the National Scheme, health practitioners 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,' she said.

When AHPRA receives a registration renewal application from an occupational therapist, their name is removed from the list of practitioners who are sent further renewal reminders. There is also an online facility to 'opt out' of renewing registration if an occupational therapist is ceasing practice and no longer wishes to remain registered. The 'opt out' service puts a stop to renewal reminders.

Dr Russell reminded the profession that they risked being unable to work if they did not renew on time in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (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 Register of Practitioners. At this time, 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.

*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