

Communiqué

October 2015 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 function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board.

Reminder: renewal of registration for 2015/16

The Board encourages occupational therapists to renew their registration with the Board online by the 30 November registration expiry date. Renewal applications received within a month after the expiry date will incur a late fee.

Under the National Law, occupational therapists who do not renew their registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of Occupational Therapists. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise or work as an occupational therapist in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

Health profession agreement

The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) have published the health profession agreement (HPA) for 2015/16.

The HPA sets out the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide in supporting the Board to carry out its functions. The *2015/16 Occupational Therapy Board of Australia and AHPRA Health Profession Agreement* is available on the *Health Profession Agreements* page of the Board's website.

The Board and AHPRA work together to implement the national scheme regulating registered health practitioners in Australia, in the public interest.

Planning

The Board has started its planning process for the 2016/2017 financial year. The early start in this activity is necessary for all of the regulatory partners in the National Scheme to develop and align their work and to avoid unnecessary duplication. All National Boards are committed to being as efficient and effective as they can be in their work.

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 or 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

Presiding member
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
20 October 2015