

Communiqué

July 2017 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 functions within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

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

Calling for applications to the Registration and Notification Committee of the Board

The Board is inviting applications from registered occupational therapists seeking appointment to its Registration and Notification Committee (RNC). The RNC assist the Board with the assessment of complex applications for registration and the assessment of all complaints about occupational therapists.

The RNC meets via teleconference at least once a month, and currently these meetings are held fortnightly. Meetings typically run from 17:00 to 19:30pm AEST. Appointments will initially be for one year, with eligibility for reappointment for up to three years. If appointed to the role, you would be expected to commence in October 2017. Applications close 5:00pm Monday 14 August 2017.

If you are interested in being involved in the regulation of the profession, the Board encourages you to [review the information](#) about the roles, eligibility requirements and the application process on their website.

Breakfast forum for practitioners

The Board hosted a successful breakfast forum preceding the Occupational Therapy Australia 2017 National Conference on 19 July 2017. It was attended by around 120 practitioners. This was a valuable opportunity the Board to update occupational therapy practitioners on current projects and information on trends and issues in notifications. It was pleasing to hear from participants that practitioners are wanting to engage with the Board not only about registration requirements, but also about wider policy work that the Board is undertaking.

National competency standards for occupational therapists

The Board is pleased to advise that it has finalised changes to be made to the revised draft standards, following feedback from public consultation. Work is underway to develop materials to help communicate these changes with practitioners nationally.

Planning for the implementation of the revised standards is underway and the Board intends to release the standards and any supporting materials towards the end of 2017 or in early 2018. The revised standards will be finalised over the coming month and the Board looks forward to engaging with key stakeholders in the months to follow to ensure a smooth implementation.

The Board will share more information with you as this work progresses and it encourages you to keep checking into its website for updates.

New advertising information available for practitioners

The Board noted that new advertising information is now available on the AHPRA website to help occupational therapists **check** and **correct** their advertising so they **comply** with legal requirements.

It includes:

- examples of non-compliant advertising by registered health practitioners and changes that would help it to comply with the National Law¹
- information about AHPRA's process for managing advertising complaints, and
- a summary of advertising guidelines.

Occupational therapists are responsible for their advertising and must be able to substantiate any claims made that their treatments benefit patients. If in doubt about a claim, occupational therapists should leave it out of their advertising.

More about advertising requirements is in the *Advertising resources* section of the AHPRA website at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Regulatory stakeholders to gather at CLEAR

The [Fifth International Congress on Professional and Occupational Regulation](#) will be held this November in Melbourne, Australia. AHPRA will join other regulatory stakeholders from around the world to share global perspectives on licensure and regulation.

Additional information about the conference is on the [AHPRA website](#).

Are your contact details up-to-date?

It is important your contact details are up-to-date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. You can check or update your contact information by logging in to the [online services portal](#) on the AHPRA website. Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



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

Chair
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
25 July 2017

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).