

## Media release

---

21 February 2012

### Registration applications now open for occupational therapists: National Law applies from 1 July 2012

Registration applications are now open for the occupational therapy profession (OT) which, along with three other professions, is joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) on 1 July this year.

To be granted registration, occupational therapists (OTs) must meet the registration standards set by the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Board) under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

From 1 July 2012, all OTs not currently registered with a state and territory board must have applied – and been approved for – registration to practise.

This includes practitioners who have a job with the position title 'occupational therapist', or have a job that involves clinical occupational therapy contact, or have a job that involves directing, supervising or advising other health practitioners about the health care of individuals (even under a generic title such as Clinical Director).

OTs in Qld., WA, SA, and NT do not need to apply for registration, or pay an application fee to the National Board, as they are currently regulated by their state or territory board and will transition into the National Scheme.

Practitioners working in jurisdictions where OT is not currently regulated are urged to submit their application for registration to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) by **30 March 2012** to allow enough time for processing as a large number of applications are expected between now and 1 July 2012.

Registration application forms are now available at [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au).

OTs are urged to visit the Board's website for more information about their obligations under the National Law and to check that all essential documents are included in their registration application before submitting it to AHPRA.

*The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) works in partnership with 14 National Boards to implement the national regulatory scheme for health professionals. The currently regulated professions are: chiropractic, dental, medical, nursing and midwifery, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology. As of 1 July 2012, four more professions will be regulated under the National Scheme – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, medical radiation practitioners and occupational therapists. The purpose of health practitioner regulation is to protect the public by ensuring that only health practitioners who have the skills, qualifications and knowledge to provide safe care are registered.*

*For more information*

- Visit the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia's website at [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au) for specific registration information and FAQs
- Lodge an online enquiry form under *Contact us* from the homepage
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200