

The Psychologists Registration Board of Tasmania

Circular No: 2/09

November 2009

Registrar: Ms Jayne Wilson



Registration for 2010

Applications for re-registration for 2010 are due by 31 December 2009.

Fees for 2010 are as follows:

Full or employed provisional registration: \$240.00

Student (full time) provisional registration: \$120.00

To avoid receiving unnecessary reminder notices please ensure you advise the Board if you do not intend to re-register for 2010.

Psychologists Registration Board of Tasmania

Chairperson

Mrs Ann Stark

Members – Psychologists

Mr Darren Stops

Dr Rosemary Dobber

Members – Community

Ms Antonia Dunne

Rev Canon Douglas Edmonds

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Christmas/New Year Office Hours

The Board's office will close at 12 noon on Thursday 24 December 2009 and will re-open on Monday 4 January 2010.

The members and staff of the Board wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year!



Register of Approved Supervisors

The Board has determined that it will establish a register of approved supervisors, being psychologists fully registered for at least three years and who have successfully completed supervisor training as provided by the Board. From 1 April 2010 all applicants for provisional registration following the four plus two pathway will be required to have a supervisor whose name appears on the Board's register of approved supervisors.

The Board has also reviewed and updated its supervision and provisional registration forms which are available the Board's website www.regboardstas.com/psychologists

The Board is delighted by the overwhelming response to the supervision training workshops. Two additional workshops will be held in Hobart and Deloraine in March 2010 (both are already fully booked) with a further one planned for Campbell Town in May 2010. Psychologists who have not as yet registered and who wish to participate in the training should contact the Board as soon as possible to register.

Amendments to the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997

On 1 August 2009 new provisions within the Children, Young Persons and their Families (CYPTF) Act came into effect. The amendments include the establishment of new Gateway Services (Community Based Intake Services) to be run by non-government organisations in each of Tasmania's four regions. The Board has sought clarification as to whether psychologists may be compromised in their ethical duties when providing information through the Gateway Service if confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

The Board has been advised that the need to have the consent of a client before sharing information under the Personal Information Protection (PIP) Act is over-ridden by the CYPTF Act where there are concerns about the safety and/or wellbeing of a child because of the belief or suspicion of abuse or neglect. Additionally section 2(1)(d) of the PIP Act provides that information can be shared if the psychologist reasonably believes that the use or disclosure is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to an individual's life, health, safety or welfare; or a serious threat to public health or public safety.

Further information on all the amendments is available on the Department of Health and Human Services website at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/dcyfs/legislation/cyptfa

National Registration of Psychologists

The national registration and accreditation scheme for health practitioners is due to commence on 1 July 2010.

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009 which sets out the details of the scheme was passed in the Queensland Parliament on 29 October 2009.

Requirements of the National Law include:

- Evidence of Continuing Professional Development for annual re-registration
- Mandatory reporting of registrants by employers and other health professionals where members of the public are at risk of harm
- Criminal history checks and identity checks for all new registrants
- Mandatory Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Registration of students.

Each state and territory is now responsible for tabling state or territory specific legislation that adopts the national law and repeals the local registration acts.

The Tasmanian legislation to do this is expected to be introduced into the Tasmanian Parliament in the beginning of November.

Tasmanian legislation is also being prepared to establish a health professions tribunal to hear serious disciplinary matters which will be referred to it under the National Scheme in Tasmania.

The National Scheme consists of a Ministerial Council, an independent Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council, a national agency with an Agency Management Committee, national profession-specific boards, committees of the boards, a national office to support the operations of the scheme, and at least one local office in each State and Territory.

On 5 March 2009 the Ministerial Council appointed an Agency Management Committee, headed by Mr Peter Allen, to govern the national agency. Mr Martin Fletcher has been appointed as its CEO.

The location of the "one stop" State office which will be established by AHPRA to administer the ten professions which are part of the National Scheme in Tasmania is yet to be determined. Interviews have recently been held for the position of State Manager.

Appointments to the new Psychology Board of Australia were announced on 31 August 2009. The members of the PBA are:

- Assoc Prof Brin Grenyer, Chair & practitioner member from NSW
- Professor Alfred Allan, practitioner member from WA
- Ms Kaye Frankcom, practitioner member from Victoria
- Mr Geoff Gallas, practitioner member from the ACT
- Professor Gina Geffen, practitioner member from QLD
- Dr Shirley Grace, practitioner member from the NT
- Ms Ann Stark, practitioner member from Tasmania
- Mr Radomir Stratil, practitioner member from SA

- Ms Antonia Dunne, community member
- Mrs Irene Hancock, community member
- Ms Fiona McLeod, community member
- Mr Christopher O'Brien, community member

All national board members convened for the first time in Melbourne on 19 September 2009 for a full-day induction program. The inaugural meetings of the ten new national boards were held on 20 September 2009. A summary of the Board's proceedings are available on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website www.ahpra.gov.au

After its second meeting the Board released a consultation paper on proposed registration standards and related matters. The National Law provides for national boards to develop registration standards for approval by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on each of the following:

- Criminal history checks
- English language requirements
- Professional indemnity insurance
- Continuing professional development
- Recency of practice

Comments on the Consultation Papers (which are available at www.ahpra.gov.au) are due by 24 November 2009.

How are registration renewal dates and registration fees affected by the new legislation?

All psychologists registered in Tasmania at 30 June 2010 will automatically transfer to the new National Scheme when it commences.

Any practitioner who currently has any conditions placed on their registration or who has given undertakings to the Board, will have these carried forward to their registration under the new scheme.

The next registration renewal date for psychologists under the new scheme will be 30 November 2010. This date will apply to all psychologists across Australia

The registration fee to apply at this time will be set by the new Psychology Board of Australia and advised well before the commencement of the scheme. The fee for your first registration under the new scheme will be adjusted to take account of the change in renewal date.

If you are currently registered in a number of jurisdictions, you will only have one registration under the new scheme. The fee in this case will be adjusted according to the registration with the latest expiry date

Further information will be mailed directly to you in around April 2010, about the transition into the new scheme as it affects you.

Regular information updates are provided by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards on the AHPRA web site which can be accessed at www.ahpra.gov.au