



The Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland administers the Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001 and other relevant legislation for the benefit and protection of the community.

In this Issue

- ▶ From the Chairperson
- ▶ Recency of Practice Discussion Paper
- ▶ Changes in name, address or qualification or practising under a business name
- ▶ Renewal of registration
- ▶ Duty to notify the Board of certain matters
- ▶ Mandatory disclosure notice - renewal of registration

From the Chairperson

The main purpose of this Newsletter is to inform registrants about the Recency of Practice Discussion Paper. I would encourage registrants to obtain a copy of the Paper and provide comments, which will be gratefully received.

You will notice that the Board has adopted a new logo. This logo will be used on all of the Board's publications in future. We think it represents the many facets of the speech pathology profession and believe it is a suitable corporate image for the Board.

Meredith Kilminster
Chairperson

Recency of Practice Discussion Paper

**The Recency of Practice discussion paper will be available in pdf form as of 31 January on the Board's website:
www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au,**

**or a copy may be requested by e-mailing
HUDSONK@HEALTHREGBOARDS.QLD.GOV.AU**

In line with the statutory obligation to protect the public by ensuring health care is delivered by registrants in a professional, safe and competent way, to uphold the standards of practice in the profession and to maintain public confidence in the profession, the Board has now begun the process of determining what recency of practice requirements should apply to the profession.

Consistent with its commitment to the open and accountable development of policy, the Board has determined that defining recency of practice will be based on a process of consultation with practitioners, health care consumers, professional organisations, employers and other interested parties. In this way, the development of the policy will reflect both the expectations of the community and the profession.

The Board has now released its 'Recency of Practice Discussion Paper', which marks the first stage in this consultation process. Recency of practice, when defined through this consultation process, will be directly linked to the annual renewal of registration, as the *Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001* requires the Board, when deciding an application for renewal of registration, to have regard to the extent the applicant has satisfied "recency of practice requirements" that have been prescribed under a regulation.

An advertisement alerting all health care practitioners and the public throughout Queensland to the release of this discussion paper, and similar discussion papers for all Boards, will be placed in the Saturday edition of the Courier-Mail on 5 February 2005, and the discussion paper will be available in pdf form as of 31 January on the Board's website:
www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au, or a copy may

be requested by e-mailing

HUDSONK@HEALTHREGBOARDS.QLD.GOV.AU

As the entire policy making process will be informed by the submissions the Board receives, it is essential for those stakeholders who wish to participate in the development of the recency of practice policy to become actively involved by submitting their views to the Board. Various colleges, professional bodies and community groups, as listed on the Board's website, have been directly invited to make submissions on behalf of their members. Registrants are encouraged to liaise with their professional bodies in relation to forwarding one collective submission on behalf of members rather than practitioners making individual submissions.

All submissions are to be in writing and submitted by Friday, 29 April 2005.

Anyone seeking further information on the recency of practice policy making process, or the discussion paper, can contact Mr Kim Hudson (Project Officer) on 3235 4177.

Renewal of registration

Registrants should receive a renewal of registration notice in May 2005. Please contact the Office if it is not received.

The registration year for Speech Pathologists aligns with the financial year and registration will be mailed a renewal notice to their current address on the Register which is the same address to which this newsletter was sent.

Changes in name, address or qualification or practising under a business name

Registrants are required by legislation to notify the Board of any of the following:

- a change in name.
- a change in address.
- the withdrawal or cancellation of qualification for registration.
- before carrying on a business providing professional services under a business name other than a registrant's own name, the registrant must give the Board notice of the business name. If there is a change to the information in the notice, the registrant must give the Board notice of the change within 14 days.

The Board also requests that registrants advise in writing of any change in employer details in order

to carry out the functions relevant to the administration of the legislation.

Mandatory disclosure notice - renewal of registration

As part of renewal of registration, Speech Pathologists are required to state whether they suffer from any ongoing medical condition, of which they are aware, or know or ought reasonably to know adversely affects his or her ability to competently and safely practice the profession.

If such a condition is notified to the Board, registration is renewed, but the Board may deal with the matter under Part 7 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*.

The Board must be satisfied that registrants' state of health is such that the registrant is capable of carrying out the duties of a Speech Pathologist without endangering patients.

If such a condition is notified to the Board, registration is renewed, but the Board may deal with the matter under Part 7 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* which provides for the management of such registrants.

The *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* defines impairment to mean that *the registrant has a physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder that detrimentally affects, or is likely to detrimentally affect, the registrant's physical or mental capacity to perform the registrant's profession and includes substance abuse or dependence.*

Sometimes, the quality of health care may suffer if a Speech Pathologist is unwell. The Board has access to a Health Assessment and Monitoring Program to deal with issues of practitioner health.

With mutual agreement and co-operation, registrants and the Board can work together as partners in rehabilitation. The Board wishes that there be an atmosphere of self declaration by registrants.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Health Assessment and Monitoring Program on telephone 32340183.

Qualifications for registration

Applicants for registration who do not hold a prescribed qualification may be required to undertake an examination before being eligible for registration. The Board's Policy has been extended until 31 January 2007.

If a Speech Pathologist is not the holder of a prescribed qualification it is important to ensure that current registration is maintained.

The following are the prescribed qualifications for registration:

- Bachelor of Speech Pathology, Queensland
- Master of Speech Pathology Studies, Queensland
- Bachelor of Speech Pathology, Newcastle
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology), Sydney
- Master of Speech and Language Pathology, Macquarie
- Bachelor of Health Science (Speech Pathology), Charles Sturt
- Bachelor of Speech Pathology, La Trobe
- Master of Speech Language Pathology, La Trobe
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology), Flinders
- Bachelor of Science (Human Communication Science) Curtin
- Master of Science (Speech Pathology), Curtin

The Board has adopted a policy on Qualifications for General Registration whereby as a transitional arrangement, it will, until 31 January 2007, continue to recognise for the purposes of section 44(1)(b) of the Act, the following Australian qualifications that were accepted for registration under the *Speech Pathologists Act 1979*:

B SP PATH (AUDIOL) QLD
 B SP THY QLD
 B APP SC (SP & HEARING) WAIT
 B SC (SP & HEARING) CURTIN WA
 B APP SC (SP PATH) CUMB NSW
 B APP SC (SP PATH) LINC VIC
 B APP SC (SP PATH) SACAE
 B SP PATH FLINDERS

Members of the Board

The following have been appointed by the Governor in Council as members of the Board until 11 July 2008:

Meredith Kilminster, speech pathologist - Chairperson
 Elizabeth Ward, speech pathologist - Deputy Chairperson
 Valerie Cocksedge, public member
 Lynette Hodgson, speech pathologist
 Julie Marinac, speech pathologist
 Peter McInnes, lawyer
 Sandra McMahon, speech pathologist
 Ian Mill, public member
 Gai Rollings, speech pathologist

Contact details

Location: Level 19, Forestry House, 160 Mary Street, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND
 Telephone: 07 3225 2508
 Facsimile: 07 3225 2527
 E-mail: speechpathology@healthregboards.qld.gov.au
 Web Site: www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au
 Correspondence to the Board should be addressed to:
 Executive Officer
 Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland
 GPO Box 2438
 BRISBANE QLD 4001