



***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.***

- Recency of Practice
- Renewal of registration
- 2003 Speech Pathologists Labour Force Survey
- Mandatory disclosure notice - renewal of registration
- Board grants and financial support
- Changes in name, address or qualification or practising under a business name

### FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to this edition of the Newsletter of the Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland. There is important information for Speech Pathologists in this Newsletter. Please contact the Office if you require any assistance or clarification on any aspect of the Newsletter.

Due to their other commitments, there have been two resignations of members of the Board. Ian Mill, public member resigned in May 2005 and Gai Rollings, Speech Pathologist resigned (after seven years service) effective from 22 November 2005. The Board greatly appreciated Ian and Gai's contributions as members of the Board.

Our thanks in particular to Gai, who as a Speech Pathology Australia nominee ensured that the links with the professional association were strong. We really value having Speech Pathologists from a range of work places and from throughout the State on the Board, so that the Board reflects the breadth of registrants in Queensland. Gai was the newsletter editor and we certainly appreciated her contribution in sharing information with registrants. Thank you Gai.

We are currently working through the process to replace these Board members. I look forward to working with the new Board members. I would also like to thank the current members for their continued support of the work of the Board and for their willingness to volunteer to complete tasks.

Meredith Kilminster

Chairperson

### REGENCY OF PRACTICE

- ***Have you put your professional development on the back-burner?***
- ***Have you worked much in the last 3 years?***
- ***Are you planning a break from the profession?***
- ***Does it matter if I take a break from the profession if I stay registered?***

During mid-2006, the Board expects to release its draft recency of practice policy for comment in a second round of consultation with the profession.

The first stage of the recency of practice consultation process began in February 2005, when all 13 Health Practitioner Registration Boards released their 'Recency of Practice Discussion Papers'. All major submissions were returned to the Boards by July 2005.

The submissions received were collated and submitted to the Board for its consideration. The results were then used as the basis for the draft recency of practice policy.

The draft policy will be included on the Board's website so that it is available to the public and profession generally, and in addition a copy will be sent directly to those who submitted responses to the Discussion Paper.

All registrants, as well as other interested parties are again encouraged to make a submission on this draft policy. All details of how and when to provide comments to the Board will be included in the release of the Policy.

Registrants should periodically check the Board's website [www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au) for the release of the Policy.

After the second round of consultation is completed, the Board will consider whether any changes need to be made to the draft Policy. Once the draft is finalised and approved by the Board, it will be referred to Queensland Health for development into a Regulation.

## **RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION**

### ***Do you want to continue practising as a Speech Pathologist from 1 July 2006?***

In May 2006, registrants will be mailed a renewal notice to their current address on the Register. Please contact the Office if it is not received. The registration year for Speech Pathologists aligns with the financial year 1 July-30 June.

This year, the cost of renewing your licence has increased to \$227.00. The increase is based on the 2.77% Consumer Price Index increase between December 2004 and December 2005.

Please ensure that you:

- complete the mandatory disclosure section.
- fully complete and sign all credit card details.
- note that payments and forms will not be accepted separately.

If you want to continue practising from 1 July 2006, you need to renew your registration between 1 May and 30 June this year. Speech Pathologists who don't renew their licence within this time cannot practice after 30 June.

## **2003 SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS LABOUR FORCE SURVEY**

### ***Do you want to know how many speech pathologists are working and where in Queensland?***

A Report of the data submitted by registrants in response to the Speech Pathology Labour Force Survey 2003 will be available upon request (telephone 32252508). This report would be a useful resource for the planning and analysis of speech pathology services.

The Board would be pleased to receive comments on workforce information you require in your workplace which may be included in future Reports.

The Report will be included in a joint Board and Speech Pathology Australia module at the Speech Pathology Association Australia National Conference 2006.

## **MANDATORY DISCLOSURE NOTICE - RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION**

### ***Do you suffer from a medical condition that may impact on your ability to work as a speech pathologist?***

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, and 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.

## **BOARD GRANTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

***Do you have a great idea for a research project or some other way to enhance your clinical practice? Great news then ... the Board has some grant funds available. Further information is in the enclosed flyer.***

### **Grants**

In keeping with its power under the *Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001* to develop or adopt training programs for the continuing professional education of registrants, and encourage their participation in the programmes, the Board has approved annual expenditure for enhancing clinical practice grants, subject to the availability of sufficient funds.

For the 2006-2007 financial year, the Board is satisfied that sufficient funds will be available and approves expenditure of \$5,000.00 for enhancing clinical practice grants. Individual grants would be between \$500.00 and \$3,000.00. Further information is in the flyer included with the renewal of registration notice and on the Board's website.

### **Financial support**

In keeping with its power under the *Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001* to develop or adopt training programs in the practice of the profession that are relevant to a person's eligibility for registration, the Board has approved annual expenditure for financial support for travel and accommodation for students attending Queensland university courses in speech pathology who are undertaking clinical placements in rural and remote areas subject to the availability of sufficient funds.

For the 2006 academic year the Board is satisfied that sufficient funds are available and has approved expenditure of \$15,000.00 for travel and accommodation for students attending Queensland university courses in speech pathology who are undertaking clinical placements in rural and remote areas.

The University of Queensland advises that eleven very grateful final year speech pathology students from the University of Queensland have been awarded the first Rural Clinical Placement bursaries from the Board. The bursaries were for amounts of \$200.00 to \$800.00, and were awarded on application from the students to off-set accommodation and/or travel expenses that may have led to the placement not being taken up due to financial restraints.

The students are now undertaking their 4th year block placements in, for example, Mt. Isa, Cairns, Townsville, and Emerald. The Board hopes to continue the bursaries to enable a greater number of students to gain rural experience, as research has revealed that such placements play an important role in later acceptance of rural employment.



## CHANGES IN NAME, ADDRESS OR QUALIFICATION OR PRACTISING UNDER A BUSINESS NAME

- ***Have you changed your name or address?***
- ***Are you working under a business name?***
- ***Have you let the Board know?***

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

- a change in name.
- a change in address. Registrants can nominate their preferred address for registration purposes. This may be a business or residential address or a Post Office Box. If you nominate your residential address for registration purposes, you may also request that the Office not show that address on the Register that can be accessed by the public. The Office will have on its application and renewal forms an opportunity for registrants to indicate their preference.
- the withdrawal or cancellation of qualification for registration.
- before carrying on a business providing professional services under a business name other than the 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.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The current members of the Board until 11 July 2008 are:

**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

There are two vacant positions which should be filled soon.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Website: [www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.speechpathboard.qld.gov.au)

### **Correspondence to the Board should be addressed to:**

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