

Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland

Newsletter

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.

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From the Chairperson

The main purpose of this Newsletter is to inform registrants about the Board's deliberations on whether or not to conduct criminal history checks on all new applicants for registration.

Preliminary consideration indicates that there would be a low risk of a registrant's criminal history not being disclosed to, or identified by, the Board and then that registrant with an undisclosed criminal history engaging in unsatisfactory professional conduct.

To assist consideration, the Board intends to undertake an audit of criminal history for a random number of currently registered registrants.

On another matter, the current membership of the Board will cease on 11 July 2004 and Executive Council will upon the nominations of the Minister for Health appoint members for a four year term.

Meredith Kilminster
Chairperson

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.

Duty to Notify the Board of Certain Matters

The Board will undertake an audit of criminal history for a random number of registrants during the next 12 months.

Registrants are required by section 385 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* to notify the Board of any of the following:

- conviction for an indictable offence in Queensland or under a corresponding law.
- if a registrant is party to proceedings in court claiming damages or compensation for alleged negligence by the registrant in the practice of his or her profession and in which either a judgement has been delivered or in respect of which there has been a settlement of the proceedings or part of the proceedings.
- if a registrant is registered under a corresponding law and that registration, licence or certification under that law is affected by disciplinary action or is otherwise cancelled, suspended or made subject to a condition or an undertaking.

The Courts may impose a maximum penalty of \$3,750 if a registrant fails to notify the Board.

The Board has been considering whether it will require applicants for registration to undergo a criminal history check.

To assist that consideration, during the next 12 months the Board intends to undertake an audit of criminal history for a random number of currently registered registrants.

Fees for registration

Registrants should receive a renewal of registration notice in May 2004. Please contact the Office if this is not received. The fee is \$215.00.

As with most of the registered health professions, there has been

a Consumer Price Index in registration fees effective from 9 April 2004. The *Speech Pathologists Registration Regulation 2001* prescribes the following registration fees:

Application fee for registration	\$110.00
Registration fee –	
(a) for registration for not more than 3 months	\$54.00
(b) for registration for 3-6 months	\$108.00
(c) for registration for 6-12 months	\$215.00
Restoration fee	\$290.00
Application for review of conditions	\$110.00
Replacement of certificate of registration.	\$27.00
Certified copy of certificate of registration	\$27.00
Copy of the register or part of it-for each page	\$0.55

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.

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 2005, 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

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