



31 August 2009

Psychologists Board of Qld Chair, community member joins national Board



The Psychologists Board of Queensland extended its congratulations to its Chair, Professor Gina Geffen, on her appointment as practitioner member from Queensland to the Psychology Board of Australia and to Mr Chris O'Brien on his appointment as a community member.

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council announced the appointment of 108 inaugural members of ten national boards for the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions which commences on 1 July 2010.

In making the appointments, the Council decided the Psychology Board of Australia would be one of six boards expanded to include a practitioner member from each of the eight States and Territories.

Professor Geffen is one of 72 practitioner members across the Boards and one of 39 members currently chairing a State Board. Past roles include deputy Chair of the Council of Psychology Registration Boards of Australasia and Chair of the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). Professor Geffen has chaired the Psychologists Board of Queensland since 2001.

Emeritus Professor of Psychology with The University of Queensland since 2007, she lectured in psychology at Monash University in Victoria, Flinders University of South Australia and The University of Queensland and consulted as a clinical neuropsychologist at Adelaide Children's Hospital, Royal Adelaide Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.

Her achievements include publishing 128 articles in peer-reviewed journals, making more than 250 scientific oral and poster presentations and managing grant support comprising 28 grants totalling over \$4.1 million from a number of state, national and international research agencies. She has researched topics including managing human attention and issues arising from early dementia, Parkinson's disease, head injury and brain damage.

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Mr O'Brien is one of 36 community members to join a national Board and one of 34 currently on State and Territory registration boards, being a public member of the Physiotherapists Board of Queensland where he has served since 1994.

With qualifications in business administration, law and physiotherapy, Mr O'Brien has worked in private practice and as the manager for industrial relations at a health service employing 4000 people across seven hospitals. Since 2003, he has been general manager of employee relations at an aged care provider with 1700 staff across 25 facilities.

He is Chairperson of the Legislative Review Committee of the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) and Deputy Chair of the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council.

Further information Joanne Keune, Manager (Communications), Psychologists Board of Queensland, Tel: +61-7 3225 2529 or 0448 959 622.