



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

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CORU Newsletter

Issue 7, June 2014

Update on the Social Workers Register

The register for social workers has now been well established, with applications from over 3,260 Social Workers approved by the Social Workers Registration Board. The Register can be viewed online at www.coru.ie.

A small number of applicants have not yet provided all the required information. CORU is now issuing final requests for information to all outstanding applicants, and the Social Workers Registration Board will shortly make their final decisions on outstanding applications, including those with incomplete information. Some applicants will have their application refused. Applicants who do not meet the education standards required may be required to complete an Assessment of Professional Competence.

Under the transition arrangements, applicants awaiting final determination of their application can continue to use the title "Social Worker". If an application is refused, the title 'Social Worker' cannot be used in the Republic of Ireland.

Nomination and Election of Members to the Social Workers Registration Board ([information](#))

The official notice of the holding of the 2014 election of five members to the Social Workers Registration Board and request for nominations of candidates has been issued to all social workers on the Register.

Vacancies arise in the following Three Electoral Categories: **Category 1:** Two vacancies for registrants who are engaged in the practice of the profession. **Category 2:** Two vacancies for registrants who are engaged in the management of services provided by the profession. **Category 3:** One vacancy for registrants who are engaged in education provided for the profession.

The closing date for Nominations is 12 Noon on 2 July 2014. Full details are available at www.coru.ie

We also want to thank the Board members, who have worked so diligently and intensely to deliver registration of social workers. CORU and the public are indebted to the members who have been committed to complete the work in hand.

Radiographers Registration Board

Radiographers and radiations therapists, have you applied for registration yet?

49 members of the profession have now been granted registration by the Radiographers Registration Board, and a further 146 applications are currently being processed.

The Board is made up of 13 voluntary members, 6 of whom are engaged in the profession. The term of office for three of these positions expire later this year and the arising vacancies are due to be filled by direct **election**.

Only registrants are eligible to run and/or vote in these elections. We are urging radiographers and radiation therapists to **apply now**, to ensure you have your say in the elections.

You can apply for registration online now at www.coru.ie. Guidance notes to help you through the process are also available online.

Applicants who apply under the transitional arrangements for existing practitioners will pay the application fee of €100 now and will not have to pay any further fees until 31 October 2016.

Fitness to Practise

The Minister for Health, James Reilly TD., has confirmed that Fitness to Practise will commence from 31 December 2014. This will allow CORU to **accept and deal with complaints from that date onwards only** in relation to Fitness to Practise

Fitness to Practise is one of the most significant milestones in the journey of regulation for health and social care professionals. It will mark the opening of a major new, public-facing operation within CORU, enabling the organisation to deliver on its role to protect the public. For many professionals it is the first time that they may be subject to Fitness to Practise regime. For the vast majority of registrants, this will not be an issue for them but for people against whom a complaint is made. CORU will ensure that all complaints are dealt with in a fair and transparent manner.

Welcoming the announcement the Health and Social Care Professionals Council Chair, Tom Jordan said "I welcome the announcement of the commencement date for Fitness to Practise for health and social care professionals. Fitness to Practise is an important remit for CORU and it underpins our mandate of protecting the public." Also welcoming the announcement CORU CEO, Ginny Hanrahan said "It is in everyone's interest that Fitness to Practise is introduced in a planned and co-ordinated fashion and we will be working with our Council to meet the commencement date of 31 December 2014 as announced."

News bites

International Qualification

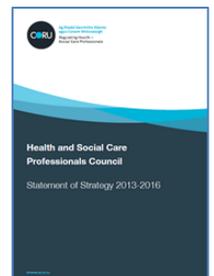
If you have an international qualification gained outside the State and want to work in Ireland, for the first time, you must apply to CORU to have your qualification recognised before you apply to register.

Currently qualifications are being recognised for the following professions: **Social Workers, Radiographers and Radiation Therapists**.

If you have had your professional qualification recognised by a previous competent authority and hold a letter of recognition/validation you do **not** need to apply for recognition at CORU. In the case of Radiographers and Radiation Therapists this would be the Department of Health. You present your letter of recognition/validation when applying for registration with the relevant Registration Board at CORU. For more details go to www.coru.ie

CORU Statement of Strategy 2013-2016

Our second Statement of Strategy is available on our website. This sets out how we intend to deliver on our mission over the next three years.



Registration Boards Updates

Occupational Therapists, Speech & Language Therapists and Dietitians Registration Boards

The registration boards for occupational therapists, speech & language therapists and dietitians are making progress in completing the work required to open the registers for each of the professions.

The Boards are currently completing work on the Codes of Professional Conduct and Ethics and the Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Education and Training reviews.

The proposed bye-laws went to public consultation in early May with a closing date of 6 June, These bye-laws included:

- Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics
- Approved Qualifications
- Application for Registration

The current timetable of work is designed to facilitate the opening of the Registers for each of these professions on **31 October 2014**

Education/CPD

CPD and Retention of Registration

The Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics adopted by the Registration Board of your profession confirms the responsibility of each registrant to keep their knowledge, skills and performance up to date, of a high standard and relevant to their practice. According to the Code registrants must participate in CPD on an on-going basis and comply with the CPD requirements of their registration board. The first profession to have a specific CPD scheme will be the social worker profession.

However, once registered, a registrant must engage in CPD as set out in the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for your profession. During this time the onus is on you as a registrant, to decide how much and what type of CPD you should engage in to ensure you have the up to date knowledge as required.

The Social Workers Registration Board is currently finalising its specific CPD requirements for social workers for the purpose of registration.

Contact us

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News bites

Consultations and Publications

A Public Consultation for the Radiographers Registration Board on the “Return to Practice Bye-Law” is now open.

[Click here](#) for further information

The Health and Social Care Professionals Council

The Council held its 50th meeting in May 2014. CORU wishes to acknowledge the dedicated commitment of its 25 voluntary members both past and present.

Events

In April CORU made presentations to TUSLA staff in Galway and both Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists in the Donegal region. CORU attended the AOTI conference in May.

Graduates 2014

CORU staff met with final year students in **social work and radiography /radiation therapy** to prepare them for registration and to encourage them to submit their Garda vetting forms early to CORU, to allow for speedy registration, once they have qualified. See www.coru.ie for further details

Update on the journey to registration

The following professions are regulated by CORU.
Social Workers, Radiographers and Radiation Therapists

The following Registration Boards are in place to prepare to open the register for their professions:

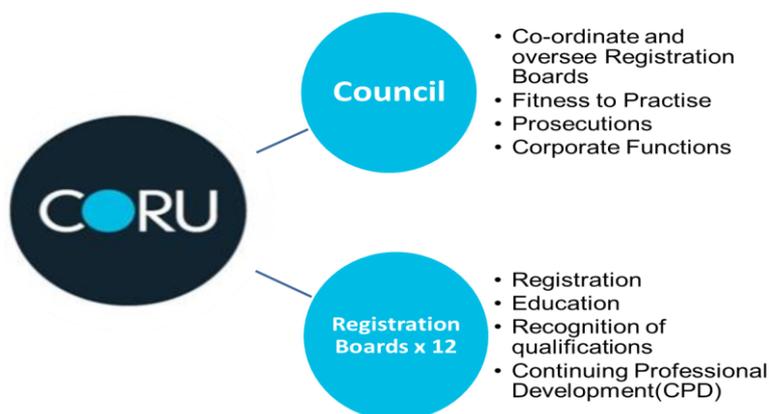
Dietitians	Occupational Therapists
Physiotherapists	Speech and Language Therapists.

The Interim Optical Registration Board is preparing for the transfer of the registers for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians, from the Opticians Board, subject to legislative amendments

The remaining professions to be regulated by CORU are:

Clinical Biochemists	Podiatrists
Medical Scientists	Psychologists
Orthoptists	Social Care Workers

CORU has a Council and will have a Registration Board for each of its professions to assist in the initial set up and operation of the register.



Invitation to be involved in International Research on Resilience in Social Workers

Jenny Bulbulia, a PhD candidate in Trinity College Dublin, and member of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council, is conducting international research on resilience in Social Workers. If you are over 18 and a registered social worker you can learn more about this research and participate in an online survey at www.fostering-resilience.com

Preliminary analysis of the results will be presented to the Council for Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation ("CLEAR") 2014 Annual Educational Conference. CLEAR is the international body that represents regulators worldwide. It is hoped that the overall findings of the research will assist international Regulators in identifying supports to foster resilience within the social work profession. This is an opportunity for you to be part of that discussion. All data will be collected on a strictly anonymous and confidential basis.

News bites

Regulation of Counsellors and Psychotherapists Consultation Process

The Minister for Health has consulted with CORU as a first step in the consultation process with the intention of adding Counsellors and Psychotherapists to the list of health professionals to be regulated by CORU.

Interim Optical Registration Board

The Minister for Health has appointed the Interim Optical Registration Board to prepare the work for the functions of the Opticians Board, including the registers for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians; to transfer to CORU when the supporting legislation is passed in the Oireachtas. Their first meeting took place on the 20 May 2014.

Appointment of members to the Physiotherapist Registration Board

In May, the Minister for Health, established the Physiotherapist Registration Board, and confirmed the appointment of members to the Board. The Board's first meeting took place on 12 June 2014. Anne Horgan was elected chairperson for a term of two years. Details of members appointed can be found at www.coru.ie