



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte  
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

# CORU Newsletter

Issue 5. Summer 2013.

## 3,000 apply for social worker registration with CORU, heralding new era in Irish healthcare

31 May 2013 heralded a new era in Ireland's healthcare system when over 3,000 applications to register with the Social Workers Registration Board were received by CORU. It marked an important milestone in the Department of Health's commitment to deliver greater protection to the public.

Although some professions such as doctors and nurses have been regulated for many years, this is the first time that health and social care professionals will be registered with a Regulator.

By applying in significant numbers, social workers have ensured that CORU can effectively complete the process of establishing and maintaining a [Register](#) of social work professionals.

This Register will show that an individual is part of a profession with required standards of education, conduct and performance.

The relationship between a social worker and those members of the public they work with is based on trust, confidence and professionalism. A regulatory environment supports these values.

Regulation enhances and supports the reputation of a profession and its practitioners by:

- Checking an individual is fit and proper
- Setting standards of performance
- Ensuring they have been Garda Vetted
- Encouraging continuing professional development.

Regulation is about accountability and delivering a safe and trusting environment for the public and professionals.

Social Workers in Ireland are leading their fellow health and social care professionals in embracing important change which will help ensure a strong and accountable profession and will also help protect people engaging their services.

Tús Áite do  
Shábháilteacht **1** Othar  
Patient Safety **1** First

### CPD Consultation

CORU recently held a [public consultation](#) on our draft Framework for Continuing Professional Development Standards and Requirements.

The Framework sets out the parameters for a [CPD](#) scheme for each of the 12 [Registration Boards](#) and the professions they regulate. The framework ensures that, despite the diversity of professions to be regulated, set guidelines remain common within CORU.

The [public consultation](#) ran for a total of six weeks and the public were invited to give their feedback via an on-line survey, by email, post or telephone. CORU also sought the views of representatives from professional bodies, trade unions and employers, along with other interested parties.

The feedback was considerable, demonstrating the level of interest in continuing professional development across the different stakeholders.

The Framework will be passed on to each of the Registration Boards who will ensure that the requirements of that specific profession are addressed effectively.

### Panel of Assessors

The [Radiographers Registration Board](#) is seeking to appoint a panel of assessors.

Assessors will make recommendations to the Board on a range of areas relating to [registration](#) and [education](#). Full training will be provided.

Professionals and academics in both Radiography and Radiation Therapy with a minimum of five years professional experience should check [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie) for more information and to download an expression of interest form.

### Radiographers Register next to open

The [Radiographers Registration Board](#) recently held a public consultation on three bye-laws - Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics; Application for Registration and Approved Qualifications and Division of the [Register](#).

Having considered the submissions received, the bye-laws have been given to Council for approval at their next meeting. Following this, the Board will make the bye-laws. They will then be submitted to the Minister for Health for laying before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The Register for Radiographers will then open.

### We want to hear from you!

Your feedback will help shape how Ireland's health and social care professions are regulated. Let us know what you think.

**Please get in touch by emailing [info@coru.ie](mailto:info@coru.ie) or telephone 01 2933160**

### Discussion Forum

CORU held a discussion forum on the Framework for a [Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics](#).

Members of the 12 professions, the Competition Authority, the HSE and the Ombudsman's Office attended.

Feedback from participants related to the purpose of the Framework; clarity of language; confidentiality and use of social media; and frequency of review.

The recommendations were taken on board by CORU and the revised Framework can be viewed on [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie).

### New Boards Update

A Chairperson has been appointed for a two-year term of office to each of the three new Registration Boards at CORU:

<b>Liz Barnes</b>	<b>Chairperson, Dietitians Registration Board</b>
<b>Clodagh Nolan</b>	<b>Chairperson, Occupational Therapists Registration Board</b>
<b>Helen Shortt</b>	<b>Chairperson, Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board</b>

The new boards are currently building the regulatory system for their professions. They are tailoring the Council guidelines on the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, including the standards of performance required of a registrant.

They are also setting the criteria for the approval of education programmes for entry to the profession.

The draft documents and bye-laws relating to the above will be available for public consultation on [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie).

#### Minister asked to appoint three more Boards

CORU has recently requested that the Minister for Health appoint the registration boards for social care workers, clinical biochemists and medical scientists.

#### Appointments to the Physiotherapists Registration Board

The Minister has recently invited expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced people who wish to be appointed to the Physiotherapists Registration Board.

This is a significant step towards the establishment of the Physiotherapists Registration Board.

## Thank you

The term of office of Council member Ms. Ann Taylor will conclude in July 2013.

In her role as Chairperson of the Registration and Education Committee of Council, Ann ensured that the committee and the executive worked diligently to develop framework documents on key areas of work including the Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Education Programmes, the Approval and Monitoring of Education Programmes, and the CPD Framework.

Ann also led the review of policies for recommendation to Council on Restoration to the Register and the Recognition of International Qualifications, as well as developing the Induction Programme for Council and Registration Board Members.

We thank her for her work and her lasting contribution to the organisation.

#### Opticians Board Update

The process of transferring the regulation of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians from the Opticians Board to CORU, will commence in the next 12 months.

As part of this process, Mr Peter Davison, Optometrist and Ms Vivienne Starr, Dispensing Optician, have been appointed as Council observers.

### Social Workers – Update

On May 31, the transitional arrangements put in place to enable existing social work practitioners to register with CORU expired.

The timeline for processing standard, complete applications is expected to be within the region of 16 weeks.

Social workers can apply for [registration](#) if they hold an [approved qualification](#) or have had their qualification recognised by the [Competent Authority](#).

#### Your views are welcome

CORU is reaching out to make sure your views are taken into consideration.

To date in 2013, we have carried out three public consultations.

It is critical that the professions, the public and other interested parties participate in these consultations.

Your views and comments play an important role in developing a system of statutory registration.

More consultations will be held in 2013 so please keep up to date on [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie)

### On-line Registration Enhanced

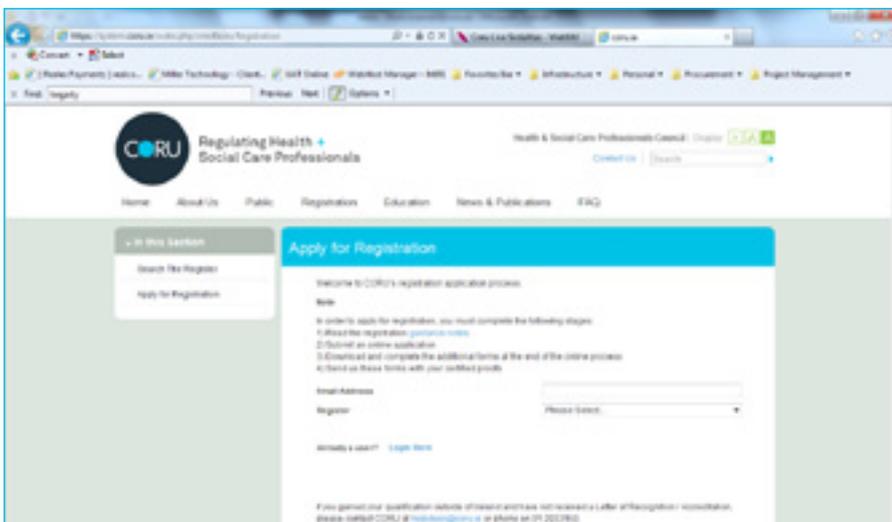
CORU's [on-line registration system](#) has been enhanced to provide users with a quick and simple way to manage their [registration](#) and [renewals](#), including payment. Launched in March 2013, over 1,500 applicants used the system.

Once an on-line application is completed, supporting documentation is submitted to CORU by post in order for an application to be processed fully. Step by step instructions and on-line guidance notes provide support and advice to all users.

#### Holding an event?

If you are holding a seminar, conference or event and would like CORU to attend then please email [communications@coru.ie](mailto:communications@coru.ie)

**Sign up for updates on [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie)**



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