



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health + Social Care Professionals

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CORU Newsletter

Issue 1. Summer 2012

Welcome to CORU's First Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of CORU's newsletter. The newsletter will keep you up-to-date on the progress we are making in developing a system of regulation for Ireland's Health and Social Care Professionals.

We will be in contact with the professional bodies and employers to keep them informed about the steps professionals must take to become registered. Please keep an eye on our website www.coru.ie for updates about our work and to contact us with any queries you have.

Ginny Hanrahan, CEO.

Introducing CORU

CORU, Ireland's first multi-profession regulator, is made up of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and the twelve Registration Boards which will be established. It was set up under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005.

Tom Jordan chairs a **Council** of 25 voluntary members appointed by the Minister for Health. With a lay majority, over half of the Council members do not come from the regulated professions.

The Council's mission is to protect the public. It sets standards of performance and education standards of proficiency for registrants. The Council is also responsible for developing mechanisms concerning complaints and will, ultimately, be responsible for conducting inquiries.

A **Registration Board** will be established for each of the regulated professions.

Each Board will be responsible for the approval and monitoring of training courses for the profession and for establishing the code of professional

conduct and ethics and standards of performance to which registrants must adhere.

The Council oversees and co-ordinates the activities of the Registration Boards, ensuring that there will be consistency in the regulation of the twelve professions.



The Health and Social Professionals Council. The Council is chaired by Tom Jordan and has 25 voluntary members. 12 members come from the Professions and the remaining 13 members are lay.

Social Workers Register is Open

The Social Workers [Register](#) has been open since May 2011. The [Social Workers Registration Board](#) has developed a Code of Conduct and Ethics for social workers, approved qualifications for social workers and is managing applications for the registration of social workers.

Social workers are now invited to apply for registration with the Social Workers Registration Board at CORU.

Remember that existing practitioners must have applied for registration before 31 May 2013 to continue to use the title "Social Worker".

We are here to help you with your application. If you have any questions or need more information please check our [website](#) or call us on 01 2933160.



The Social Workers Registration Board

Elections to Social Workers Registration Board Set For August

The Social Workers Registration Board is made up of 13 voluntary members, six of whom are from the Social Work profession.

The term of office for six members of the Social Workers Registration Board will expire on 5 August 2012. Three of these vacancies will be filled by election and the remaining three will be filled by the Minister for Health.

These elections give social workers a chance to have a say in who represents them on the Board and the direction regulation of their profession takes.

But remember...if you want to vote, you must be [registered!](#)

We will be in touch with all registrants with details closer to the polling date.

Did you know?

CORU is the name of the umbrella body covering the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and the profession specific Registration Boards.

The name CORU originates from an Irish word, 'cóir' meaning fair, just and proper.

These are values that reflect our commitment to protecting the public by regulating health and social care professionals in a fair and transparent manner.

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.

Find out how to get in touch [here](#)



What is Grandparenting?

Grandparenting is the name given to the two year transition period following the opening of the Register to allow existing practitioners to register.

This provision is especially important for existing practitioners who hold a [schedule 3 qualification](#) or who do not hold an approved qualification. After this period only those who hold an approved qualification as listed in the bye-law will be allowed to apply for registration.

The grandparenting period for social workers began on the opening of the register on 31 May 2011 and will close after 2 years on the 31 May 2013.

All practising social workers must have applied for registration before 31 May 2013.

Guide to Registration

We want to make registration as quick and simple as possible and we're here to help in any way we can. Only social workers need to apply for registration at the moment but the application process will be similar for all of the professions in time.

There are two routes to registration:

1. The standard route of entry for practitioners with an approved qualification. These applicants need to provide evidence of an approved qualification, that they are fit and proper (by providing a health and character declaration, undergoing Garda Vetting and completing a Statutory Declaration), sign up to the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics and pay the application fee of €295 or €100 if they graduated within 2 years of applying.
2. For applicants who do not have an approved qualification, there is a different route of entry called Grandparenting. These applicants must provide evidence that they are engaged in the practice of the profession. They must also prove they have a [Schedule 3 qualification](#) or undertake a Test of Competence. Following that, applicants will complete the same registration process as those going through the standard route of entry. For approved qualifications for social workers please click [here](#).

Following registration, the annual renewal date will fall on the anniversary of the opening of the Register – 31 May each year for social workers. The annual retention fee is €295. The Application and Annual Retention Fees may be tax deductible based on an individual's assessment. The application fee includes the retention fee for the remainder of the registration year up to the annual renewal date.

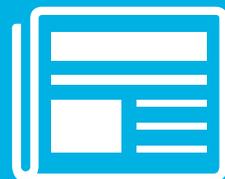
All practising social workers, regardless of route to entry, must have applied for registration before 31 May 2013 to continue to use the title "Social Worker". Early application is advised to make sure that there is no delay in registration if, for example, an additional piece for paperwork is required.

Minister Asked to Appoint Four Further Boards

CORU had requested that the Minister appoint the Registration Boards for Occupational Therapists, Speech & Language Therapists, Dietitians and Physiotherapists.

Once these Boards have been appointed, we will work towards opening their registers as quickly as possible.

Sign up for our newsletter and updates [here](#)



Opticians Board Update

Government policy has outlined that the functions of the Opticians Board who regulate Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians will be transferred to CORU. This will create further efficiencies and allow for a more streamlined regulation system for the public to understand.

The Department of Health, CORU and the Opticians Board are working collaboratively to facilitate the transfer.

Registration for 12 Health and Social Care Professions

At the moment, only social workers are invited to apply for registration. Once the Minister for Health approves the establishment of a Registration Board for each of the other professions, CORU will work towards opening the Registers for:

Clinical Biochemists	Orthoptists	Radiographers
Dietitians	Podiatrists	Social Care Workers
Medical Scientists	Physiotherapists	Speech and Language Therapists
Occupational Therapists	Psychologists	

To date the Social Workers Registration Board and the Radiographers Registration Board have been established.

We will be in touch with the professional bodies and employers to make sure the professionals know when they need to register. Our [website](#) will also have regular updates.

Work Underway on Fitness to Practise

Fitness to Practise is one of the most familiar parts of regulation for the public and the professions.

Under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005, Fitness to Practise cannot begin until two Registers are opened. However, CORU is preparing the ground for the introduction of Fitness to Practise, with a Committee currently working on the development of a Framework.

Most health and social care professionals will always be fit to practise their profession. However sometimes, for many reasons, people can become unfit to practise. When a person who is unfit to practise in their profession continues to practise they put the safety of the public, and the reputation of their profession, at risk.

Fitness to practise is about finding out if a person is unfit to practise and, if he or she is unfit, applying the appropriate measure to resolve the situation. Fitness to practise is not about punishment and it is not about chasing every minor isolated mistake. Fitness to practise is about protecting the public.

Before a Hearing is held, complaints will be reviewed by a Preliminary Proceedings Committee to determine if there is a case to answer and a Hearing to be held. If a Hearing is held, the allegation must proven 'Beyond Reasonable Doubt.'

The public and employers will be able to check the Register online to see if an adverse finding has been made against a particular registrant.

We will make information available on how to make a complaint and on what to do if a complaint is made about you.

Renewal of Registration

May 31 is the deadline for the renewal of registration for social workers on the Social Workers Register.

Please click [here](#) for information.

To prevent any delays in your application please make sure that it is fully complete.

If you need any further information please get in touch by email to info@coru.ie or by phone to 01 2933160.

Radiographers Registration Board Established

The Minister for Health has established the [Radiographers Registration Board](#) and work is underway on the opening of the register.

The Board is considering the division of the Register and protection of titles to accommodate the needs of radiographers and radiation therapists.

Please keep an eye on our [website](#) for regular updates on the opening of the Radiographers Register.



Members of the Radiographers Registration Board, the second Registration Board to be established.

Registration and You

When applying for Registration, applicants may be thinking “what’s in this for me”?

It’s easy to see why registration is of benefit to the public, but there are also many benefits for registrants.

Registration provides recognition of professional standing and international recognition and verification of education and qualifications.

It gives clear guidance to registrants through standards of conduct and ethics which are established in consultation with the professions.

It also protects the reputation of the professions through the establishment of a complaints mechanism and a fitness to practise model.

If you’re interested in reading more about registration you will find plenty of information on our [website](#).

Introducing the Council Chairperson

Chairman, Tom Jordan

As Chairman of CORU, Tom Jordan has oversight over the development of the Ireland’s first multi-profession regulator.

He has brought a wealth of professional and voluntary experience to his position, having spent over thirty years working in the health care sector.

Tom has worked with other healthcare regulators such as the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland where he provided support on the establishment of Fitness to Practise for the pharmacy profession. He has also worked with a number of hospitals including Beaumont, Mater and Temple Street.

Tom is Chair of what he calls a “committed and hardworking Council”.

“We are confident that at least five Registration Boards will be in operation by the end of the year. In addition, work is now underway on the establishment of Fitness to Practise procedures”.

“As we move into this phase of activity, I am committed to ensuring that we continue to demonstrate integrity, transparency and effectiveness in every aspect of our decision making. This will be the cornerstone of ensuring public and registrant confidence in our regulatory processes”.

Consultation on Code of Conduct for Radiographers Coming Shortly

CORU will be asking for your views on the Code of Conduct for radiographers in a Public Consultation to be launched shortly.

These [consultations](#) give you an opportunity to help us shape how the profession is regulated and all views are considered seriously.

Keep an eye on our [website](#) for updates or add your details to our mailing list to receive email [updates](#).

Time Limits for Annual Renewal of Registration

Following a period of public consultation, the Council has approved a [Rule](#) which sets out the time limits for the renewal of registration for the professionals regulated by CORU.

The rule sets out clearly how we will inform registrants about their annual renewal requirements.

Further information is available on our [website](#).