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**Policy for recency of
practice requirements**



Psychology
Board of
Australia

Summary

The Psychology Board of Australia registration standard on recency of practice was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

In accordance with the registration standard, an applicant who has not practised as a registered psychologist for five years or more before the date of application for registration or endorsement or renewal of registration or endorsement is not automatically eligible for registration or renewal of registration, but may be required to undertake remedial action to become eligible for registration or renewal of registration. The registration standard on recency of practice sets out the remedial action applicants may be required to complete, should they demonstrate an inability to comply with the registration standard. This policy sets out the level of remedial action required, depending on the length of practice lapse.

Definitions

Act means the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory of Australia

AHPRA means the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Board means the Psychology Board of Australia established under part 5 of the Act

4+2 internship program or **internship program** refers to the supervised practice program as outlined in the Guidelines

Guidelines refers to the *Guidelines for the 4+2 internships program: provisional psychologists and supervisors*

Lapsed registration refers to registration as a psychologist under the National Law or a corresponding prior Act that has expired because the registration was not renewed.

National Law means the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory of Australia

Practice refers to the practice of psychology as defined in the Board's registration standard on recency of practice

Provisional Psychologist means a person registered as a provisional psychologist under part 7 of the Act

Psychologist means a person who holds general registration as a psychologist under Part 7 of the Act

Supervisor, or **Board-Approved Supervisor** or **Principal Supervisor** means a person who holds general registration

as a psychologist and who has been approved by the Board, pursuant to section 9 of the Guidelines, to supervise provisional psychologists

The definition of practice, as stated in the Board's registration standard on recency of practice, means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a psychologist in their profession. Practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct, nonclinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Recency of practice, as stated in the Board's registration standard on recency of practice, means that a practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in, the profession since qualifying or obtaining registration.

To practise as a psychologist in Australia, an individual must be registered by the Board. On this basis, the Board will not accept as evidence of practice:

- a) unregistered practice involving activities of a psychological nature; or
- b) practice involving activities of a non-psychological nature despite these being performed by a registered psychologist.

The level of remedial action required will depend on the amount of time the applicant has not practised as a registered psychologist.

Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for formulating and approving this policy. AHPRA is responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented and effectively managed.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- 1) applicants who were previously registered with the Psychology Board of Australia, or a state or territory board of Australia, whose registration has lapsed and who are now applying for general registration; and
- 2) applicants who hold general registration currently with the Psychology Board of Australia and who are now applying to renew their registration; and
- 3) applicants who are applying to change registration status from non-practising registration to general registration.

Legislation

The Board's registration standard on recency of practice has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to section 12(1) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Requirements

Practice lapse

If an applicant has not practised as a registered psychologist for:

- 1) between five (5) and nine (9) years: the Board may refuse the application and require the applicant to complete a minimum of 770 hours of supervised practice as a provisional psychologist under the national 4+2 internship program and to meet the requirements of that program
- 2) between 10 and 14 years: the Board may refuse the application and require the applicant to complete a minimum of 1540 hours of supervised practice as a provisional psychologist under the national 4+2 internship program and meet the requirements of that program or
- 3) 15 years or more: the Board will propose to refuse the application and require the applicant to complete a minimum of 3080 hours of supervised practice as a provisional psychologist under the national 4+2 internship program and meet the requirements of that program.

Supervised practice requirements

Any period of supervised practice must meet the requirements set out in the Board's Guidelines with the following provisions:

where a minimum of 770 hours is required, the applicant must complete one-quarter of the overall supervision and professional development hours; the supervisor must complete a final assessment of competence form at the completion of supervision and

where a minimum of 1540 hours is required, the applicant must complete one-half of the overall supervision and professional development hours; the supervisor must complete a final assessment of competence form at the completion of supervision.

On completion of remedial action

On successful completion of the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Board, the applicant may apply for general registration. The Board reserves the right to vary the conditions in this policy in accordance with individual circumstances.

Authorisation

Psychology Board of Australia

Meeting date: 29 July 2011

Review

This policy will be in effect from 1 August 2011. The Board will review this policy at least every three years.