

FACT SHEET

Transition and grandparenting arrangements for area of practice endorsements

What is an endorsement?

Endorsement of a psychologist's registration is a legal mechanism under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), through which particular groups of registrants, who have an additional qualification and advanced supervised practice recognised by the Board, can be identified to the public, employers and anyone else accessing the public register. An endorsement on registration indicates that a psychologist has additional qualifications and supervised experience in an area of practice, in addition to the minimum level of psychological training required for general registration.

Background

On 31 March 2010, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) announced approval of seven of the nine area of practice endorsements proposed by the Board. The Board resolved to consult further with the community and the profession. Following this consultation, the Board provided further advice to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC), recommending a review and inclusion of health psychology and community psychology as approved areas of practice.

Acting on the advice provided by AHMAC, the Ministerial Council approved the inclusion of health psychology and community psychology area of practice endorsements at a meeting on 12 November 2010. Subsequently, on 17 February 2011, the Ministerial Council approved the inclusion of health psychology and community psychology in the Area of practice endorsements registration standard with approval taking effect from 9 March 2011.

The nine area of practice endorsements for psychology are:

- clinical neuropsychology
- clinical psychology
- community psychology
- counselling psychology
- educational and developmental psychology
- forensic psychology
- health psychology
- organisational psychology
- sport and exercise psychology

The requirements for area of practice endorsement are set out in the Board's Area of practice endorsements registration standard; however transition provisions in the National Law have allowed alternative pathways to endorsement for some psychologists under the National Law. The Board has also approved some additional transition provisions which ensure that psychologists who had commenced a pathway to formal recognition in an area of practice prior to the commencement of the National Scheme are not disadvantaged.

This fact sheet sets out the transition arrangements the Board has approved for psychologists seeking an area of practice endorsement in any of the nine approved areas.

The following transition arrangements are detailed in this fact sheet:

- Automatic endorsement on participation day
 - WA specialist title psychologist
 - Medicare clinical psychologists
 - APS College members
- Transition period provisions for applications for endorsement until 30 June 2013
 - For psychologists with a higher degree and supervised practice
 - For psychologists eligible for APS College membership
- Transition provisions for higher degree students and recent graduates

Participation day means 1 July 2010 for all jurisdictions except Western Australia and 18 October 2010 for Western Australia.

Automatic endorsement of registration on participation day:

Section 278 of the National Law under Part 12 – Transitional provisions, allowed psychologists who met the criteria to automatically be granted an endorsement when their registration transferred to the National Register on participation day as follows:

A person who, immediately before the participation day for a participating jurisdiction –

- (a) held a type of registration in that jurisdiction in a health profession for a corresponding purpose; or
- (b) held general registration in that jurisdiction in a health profession that had been endorsed for a corresponding purpose

from the participation day, the person is taken to hold general registration in the health profession that has been endorsed under this Law for the purpose that is equivalent to, or substantially equivalent to, the corresponding purpose.

Prior to 1 July 2010 there was no area of practice endorsement for psychologists in any jurisdiction. However in consultation with stakeholders the Board identified three types of formal recognition of advanced education and training that met the criteria for ‘corresponding purpose’ under the National Law in that they were substantially equivalent to the purpose for which an area of practice endorsement may be granted under the National Law.

Western Australia specialist title psychologists

Psychologists in Western Australia who on the day prior to participation day held specialist registration under section 29(1) of the *Psychologists Act 2005* (WA) in any of the following specialist areas:

- Clinical psychology
- Clinical neuropsychology
- Counselling psychology
- Educational and developmental psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Organisational psychology
- Sports psychology

These seven areas of practice were “prescribed branches of psychology” under Regulation 7 of the *Psychologists Regulations 2007* (WA). All seven areas are “approved areas of practice” under section 98 of the National Law, so Western Australia specialist psychologists transitioned to the National register with the equivalent area of practice endorsement on participation day.

Medicare clinical psychologists

Psychologist who:

1. had been assessed before 1 July 2010 as eligible to provide clinical psychology Medicare services, and
2. met all the requirements to maintain that eligibility, and
3. whose name appeared on and appeared on a list* supplied to the Board by Medicare Australia of current eligible providers of clinical psychology items for Medicare on the day prior to participation day,

transitioned automatically with an endorsement in the area of clinical psychology.

APS College members

Psychologists who, on the day prior to participation day:

1. had registration with a state or territory board that is equivalent to general registration as a psychologist under section 52 of the National Law, and
2. had current membership of one of the following Australian Psychological Society Colleges:
 - College of Clinical Neuropsychologists
 - College of Clinical Psychologists
 - College of Community Psychologists
 - College of Counselling Psychologists
 - College of Educational and Developmental Psychologists
 - College of Forensic Psychologists
 - College of Health Psychologists
 - College of Organisation Psychologists
 - College of Sport and Exercise Psychologists, and
3. appeared on a list* supplied to the Board by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) of current members on the day prior to participation day,

transition automatically with the corresponding area of practice endorsement.

* It is important to note that Medicare and the APS only provided details of those psychologists who gave their permission for their name to be released to the Psychology Board of Australia, if your name did not appear on the relevant list you did not transition automatically with an endorsement. However if you otherwise met the criteria you can apply to the Psychology Board of Australia for an endorsement under Board-approved transition provisions and you have until **30 June 2013** to lodge your application. Visit the website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au to download the relevant application form.

Eligibility to apply to the Psychology Board of Australia for endorsement of registration after participation day:

Automatic endorsement under section 278 can only be applied to psychologists who met the specific criteria set out above on the day prior to participation day. However psychologists who did not meet the criteria under section 278 can apply to the Board for endorsement under section 99 of the National Law instead.

Psychologists with a higher degree, supervised practice and work experience

Psychologists who meet all of the following criteria can apply to the Board for an area of practice endorsement on the basis of qualification/s, supervised practice and workplace experience in an endorsed area of practice:

- a. general registration as a psychologist under section 52 of the National Law, and
- b. completion, prior to 30 June 2010, of an APAC accredited postgraduate degree by coursework at minimally a fifth and sixth year of study (e.g. Masters degree) in an endorsed area of practice, or a degree that has been assessed by the accreditation authority as equivalent, and

- c. following completion of the degree, completion of 12 months of full time equivalent work experience in the endorsed area of practice, plus 80 hours of supervision and professional development relevant to the endorsed area of practice in a 12 to 36 month period before 30 June 2010 at a minimum of 30 hours per year, and
- d. inclusion in the 80 hours of supervision and professional development of at least 40 hours of supervision by a generally registered psychologist who was eligible for endorsement in the relevant area of practice, of which at least 30 of hours were provided on an individual basis (i.e. not group supervision), and
- e. since completing the qualification and 80 hours of supervision and professional development have maintained the competencies in the endorsed area of practice through psychological practice, supervision, peer consultation, and professional development.

More information on these requirements is included in the application form (AEAT-76).

Psychologists who had not completed the full 80 hours of supervision and professional development by 30 June 2010 are not eligible for endorsement under this provision and will need to complete the Psychology Board of Australia registrar program to obtain and endorsement. However psychologists can apply for recognition of prior supervised practice and a reduction in the duration of the registrar program. For more information refer to the Board's *Policy for recognition of prior supervised practice for approval of a registrar program*.

Western Australia psychologists undertaking specialist title supervision

Psychologists who:

- a. on 17 October 2010, had an approved supervision plan for the purposes of gaining specialist title in an approved area of practice in Western Australia, and
- b. registered the agreed supervision plan with the regional board of the Psychology Board of Australia by 30 December 2010, and
- c. successfully complete the specialist title supervision program by 30 June 2013,

will be eligible to apply for an endorsement in the approved area of practice and have until **30 June 2013** to lodge their final application for endorsement with the Board.

**** Note:** section 118 of the National Law prohibits the use of the title 'specialist' by any practitioner who is not included on an approved specialist register. Given there is no approved specialist register for psychology, this section of the National Law prohibits all psychologists in Australia from using the title specialist. A transition provision has been included in section 281 of the National Law that allows Western Australian psychologists who held specialist registration on 17 October 2010 to continue to use their specialist title for three years. However there is no equivalent provision for psychologists who has not yet obtained specialist title on participation day. Therefore completion of the PRBWA specialist title supervision program will enable you to apply for an area of practice endorsement, but it will not enable you to use the word 'specialist' in your title.

Psychologists eligible for APS College membership

The transition provisions in this section apply to membership of the following APS Colleges:

- College of Clinical Neuropsychologists
- College of Clinical Psychologists
- College of Counselling Psychologists
- College of Educational and Developmental Psychologists
- College of Forensic Psychologists
- College of Organisation Psychologists
- College of Sport and Exercise Psychologists

Transition provisions for members of the College of Community Psychologists or the College of Health Psychologists are outlined in the next section of this fact sheet.

To be eligible to apply for an endorsement the applicant must have general registration as a psychologist under section 52 of the National Law in addition to the following criteria:

1. Psychologists who:

- a. on or before 30 September, met the requirements for membership of one of the APS Colleges, and
- b. lodged an application for assessment of eligibility for full membership of the College by 30 September 2010, and
- c. were assessed by the APS as eligible for full College membership by 30 December 2010

OR

2. Psychologists who:

- a. lodged an application for membership of one of the APS Colleges before 30 September 2010, and
- b. following assessment of the application by the APS, had an individual bridging plan (IBP) granted by 30 December 2010, and
- c. registered the IBP with the regional board of the Psychology Board of Australia by 30 December 2010, and
- d. successfully complete the IBP by 30 June 2013

OR

3. Psychologists who:

- a. before 30 September 2010, had entered into an agreed supervision plan (that is, agreement between the supervisor and student) for the purposes of gaining full membership of an APS College, and
- b. registered the agreed supervision plan with the regional board of the Psychology Board of Australia by 30 December 2010, and
- c. complete the supervision program and gain full APS College membership by 30 June 2013.

have until **30 June 2013** to lodge their final application for endorsement with the Board.

Psychologists eligible for Health or Community College membership

Ministerial approval for endorsement in the first seven areas of practice was effective from 1 July 2010 whereas Ministerial approval for community psychology and health psychology was effective from 9 March 2011. Therefore the transition provisions for members of these two Colleges are essentially the same as for members of the other seven Colleges but different deadlines for meeting eligibility criteria have been specified.

To be eligible to apply for an endorsement the applicant must have general registration as a psychologist under section 52 of the National Law in addition to the criteria listed below.

1. Psychologists who:

- a. on 9 March 2011, met the requirements for membership of the APS College of Community Psychologists or College of Health Psychologists, and
- b. lodged an application for assessment of eligibility for full membership of the College by 9 June 2011, and
- c. are assessed by the APS as eligible for full College membership by 9 September 2011

OR

2. Psychologists who:

- a. lodge an application for membership of the APS College of Community Psychologists or College of Health Psychologists before 9 June 2011, and
- b. following assessment of the application by the APS, had an individual bridging plan (IBP) granted by 9 September 2011, and
- c. register the IBP with the regional board of the Psychology Board of Australia by 9 September 2011, and

- d. successfully complete the IBP by 30 June 2013

OR

3. Psychologists who:

- a. before 9 June 2011, had entered into an agreed supervision plan (that is, agreement between the supervisor and student) for the purposes of gaining full membership of the APS College of Health Psychologists or the APS College of Community Psychologists, and
- b. register the agreed supervision plan with the regional board of the Psychology Board of Australia by 9 September 2011, and
- c. complete the supervision program and gain full APS College membership by 30 June 2013

have until **30 June 2013** to lodge their final application for endorsement with the Board.

Transition provisions for higher degree students and recent graduates

The Psychology Board of Australia has determined that any student who had commenced and was undertaking an APAC accredited higher degree on 30 June 2010, or who was a recent graduate on 30 June 2010, will be permitted to apply for an area of practice endorsement under the following rules:

1. Any psychologist who on 30 June 2010 was undertaking an APAC accredited Doctorate of Psychology degree associated with an area of practice endorsement will be eligible to apply for an area of practice endorsement after completing all the degree requirements and graduating from the degree.
2. Any psychologist who completed an APAC accredited Doctorate of Psychology degree associated with an area of practice endorsement between 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2010 and has graduated from the degree is eligible to apply for an area of practice endorsement until 30 June 2013.
3. Any psychologist who on 30 June 2010 was undertaking an APAC accredited Master of Psychology degree (or combined MPsc/PhD) associated with an area of practice endorsement will be eligible to apply for an area of practice endorsement after graduating from the degree and completing one year of the Psychology Board of Australia registrar program.
4. Any psychologist who has fulfilled all the requirements for conferral of an APAC accredited Master of Psychology degree (or combined MPsc/PhD) associated with an area of practice endorsement between 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2010, and has subsequently graduated from the degree will be eligible to apply for an area of practice endorsement after completing one year of the Psychology Board of Australia registrar program. For psychologists who fall under this specific provision, that is, who completed their Masters or combined MPsc/PhD between 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2010, the registrar program must be completed and the application for area of practice endorsement lodged prior to 30 June 2013. Under this provision, applicants must submit the application for approval of a registrar program **before 30 June 2012**. Registrar programs begun after this date could not be completed by 30 June 2013 even if they were undertaken full time. From 1 July 2012, applicants whose qualifications fall into this category and who have not begun a Board-approved registrar program will not be eligible for a reduction in the registrar program requirements.

Notes for higher degree students and graduates:

The Board has not specified a deadline to complete the degree and apply for endorsement for students enrolled in an accredited degree on 30 June 2010. However psychologists should be aware of university requirements to complete higher degrees in a timely fashion, and the Board's *Policy for recency of practice requirements*.

Masters students can apply for General registration and commence the registrar program after they have completed all the degree requirements which includes the thesis being marked and accepted, and receiving a transcript demonstrating that the degree has been completed, but before formal graduation from the degree (i.e. attending the graduation ceremony). However formal graduation must occur before applying for an endorsement upon completion of the registrar program.

Students who complete a different APAC accredited qualification to the one they were enrolled in on 30 June 2010 are included in these transition provisions (i.e. MPsc student who changes to a DPsych).