



Consultation Paper 5

Proposed revisions to the

Guidelines on Area of Practice

Endorsements

August 2010

Issued by the Psychology Board of Australia under the authority of Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair. August 2010.

If you wish to provide comments on this paper, please lodge a written submission in electronic form, marked 'Attention: Chair, Psychology Board Endorsement Guideline' to chair@psychologyboard.gov.au by close of business on Friday 10 September 2010. Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise.
<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au>

Overview of the Consultation

Ministerial Council approved the Psychology Board of Australia Area of Practice Endorsement Standard that has been in place since 1 July 2010 (see attachment B). There is no proposal to change this approved standard. Supporting this Standard are Guidelines that provide detail as to how the Standards apply. Guidelines for Area of Practice Endorsement are currently in force and available at the Board's website. During this consultation period, the current approved Guidelines remain in force.

This Consultation paper proposes revisions to the Guidelines for Area of Practice Endorsements (the 'Guidelines') as published by the Psychology Board of Australia (PBA) on 1 July 2010.

Since the publication of the Guidelines, the Board has been made aware that as they stand they may inadvertently put in place disincentives for prospective and current Doctorate and PhD candidates. The Board wants to minimise these disincentives, because it believes it is in the public interest for the profession to remain evidence-based and that high quality research and training programs need to continue to be supported by an appropriately trained workforce. The supply of well-trained psychologists is dependent on a workforce of Doctorate-level qualified academics and researchers who support university and senior psychology posts and provide training and supervision to the next generation of psychologists. It is with this in mind that the Board has instigated this review of the Guidelines.

The proposed changes to the guidelines can be summarised as follows:

1. The PBA proposes to allow Doctorate students to begin their Registrar program after completing coursework and practicum degree requirements, but before completing their thesis. The current guidelines only allow commencement of the Registrar program upon completion of the Doctorate qualification. The rationale for the proposed amendment is based on the argument that as Masters students are able to commence their registrar program after two years of training, this should also apply to Doctoral students, who often share the same type of training with Masters students during the first two years of training.
2. The PBA proposes to allow Doctorate candidates in the Registrar program to use the title 'registrar' prior to completion of their qualification and therefore before gaining general registration. The rationale is because the title 'registrar' implies the candidate is in training. Psychologists who are provisionally registered are generally registered with a condition that they be supervised. This is the same condition applying to registrars, who are also under a supervision contract. The Board's view is that provisionally registered psychologists may take the title 'registrar' if they have been accepted into a registrar program, as this term communicates that the psychologist is practicing under conditions within a scope of practice leading to an endorsement.
3. The current guidelines are silent with regards the amount of client contact required in the registrar program. The PBA proposes to set a minimum number of hours of client contact at 176 hours per annum in the Registrar program. Client contact means direct client contact performing specific tasks of psychological assessment, intervention and prevention. The rationale for specifying a minimum set of hours is to provide guidance to registrars planning their program, whilst providing sufficient flexibility so that registrars involved in other areas of psychological practice have time to pursue these areas of specialist practice (such as research, teaching, or management). Because 176 hours equates to approximately a day a week (e.g. 4

hours direct client contact a day over 44 weeks), it is also suitable for those undertaking part-time work due to other responsibilities whilst maintaining some core work. Because this new minimum is set, the requirement for 17.5 hrs a week of work has been removed to be consistent with flexible work arrangements. The PBA does not propose to set a maximum requirement per annum, however proposes a 5 year limit to an entire program. 5 years equates to the recency of practice rules of the Board and ensures a sufficiently concentrated and therefore meaningful registrar training program.

4. The PBA proposes to adopt, for the purposes of the endorsement program, the Australian Health Practitioner Agency definition of practice: "Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a psychologist in their profession. In accordance with the Recency of practice standard, 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."

5. The PBA proposes the duration of the registrar program for combined Masters/PhD students to be 18 months, rather than extend over 24 months. The rationale is that combined Masters/PhD candidates conduct applied research projects and that these should be recognised as providing evidence of some of the psychological practice requirements of the registrar program.

The PBA does not propose to make any other changes to the Endorsement guidelines. In particular it does not propose any change to the requirement that general registration, or endorsement, is only available after a qualification is completed i.e. all components are passed including the thesis.

The Board, however, would be interested in any other constructive comments on the guidelines.

In particular:

- The Board would be interested in any suggestions for improved descriptions of the areas of practice in 3.1.3.
- It would also be interested in any suggestions for specific core capabilities associated with areas of practice that align to the Board's eight competency areas (a-h) that readers would like to see appear in the guidelines.

The guidelines reproduced in this consultation paper indicate deletions from the current guidelines by a strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~) and proposed revisions are in bold (**bold**).

The Psychology Board of Australia welcomes feedback and peer review of its proposals. Deadline for submissions: 10th September 2010.

**ATTACHMENT - PROPOSED REVISED GUIDELINES FOR
CONSULTATION**



Guidelines on area of practice endorsements

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Introduction

These guidelines have been developed by the Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) under s. 39 of the National Law.¹ The guidelines supplement the requirements:

- set out in the Board's registration standard for the area of practice endorsements
- in the National Law as set out under ss. 15, 98 and 99.

The relevant sections of the National Law are set out in Attachment A. The Board's 'Area of practice endorsements standard' is in Attachment B.

Who needs to use these guidelines?

These guidelines are developed to provide guidance to applicants for general registration and registered psychologists applying for endorsement in an approved area of practice.

These guidelines address the qualification and supervision requirements to be completed to become eligible for endorsement.

Summary

Pursuant to s. 15 of the National Law, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) has approved seven areas of practice for endorsement. The endorsement function allows the Board to grant an endorsement on registration to a psychologist with additional qualifications and advanced practice in an approved area of practice. Health professionals and members of the public will be able to identify psychologists who are qualified and skilled to practise in the endorsed areas of practice.

The endorsed areas of practice are:

- (a) clinical psychology
- (b) counselling psychology
- (c) forensic psychology
- (d) clinical neuropsychology
- (e) organisational psychology
- (f) sport and exercise psychology
- (g) educational and developmental psychology.

¹ The National Law is contained in the schedule to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld).

Area of practice endorsement

1 *Endorsement and use of title*

Only a psychologist with general registration and with an approved area of practice endorsement may use a title that indicates that he or she holds an endorsement. For example, a psychologist who has been endorsed to practise in the area of clinical psychology may refer to himself or herself as a 'clinical psychologist'. A person who does not have an endorsement for clinical psychology must not use the title 'clinical psychologist' or any other title that may mislead the public into a belief that the person holds such an endorsement when he or she does not. This applies to each of the seven areas of practice approved for endorsement.

Approved titles are: clinical psychologist, counselling psychologist, forensic psychologist, clinical neuropsychologist, organisational psychologist, sport and exercise psychologist, and educational and developmental psychologist.

A psychologist should avoid using the word endorsed in his or her title (i.e. should not use a title such as 'endorsed clinical psychologist').

The title 'registrar' is not a protected title under the National Law, but titles associated with an endorsement are protected. The Board's view is that it may only be used by ~~generally registered psychologists who have completed a Masters or Doctorate degree in an endorsed area, and are~~ **candidates** currently undertaking Board-approved supervised practice (**the Registrar program**) for the purpose of gaining an endorsement in an approved area of practice. However, the psychologist must ensure that he or she does not use the title in such a way that it may lead a person to believe that he or she currently holds an endorsement. **Examples of acceptable titles** are 'registrar clinical psychologist', 'clinical psychologist registrar' or 'clinical psychologist (registrar)'.

Provisional psychologists undertaking an accredited higher degree or a Board-approved 4+2 internship program are entitled to use the title 'provisional psychologist' while engaged in supervised practice undertaken for the purpose of gaining general registration.

The term 'intern' is not a protected title under the National Law, but titles associated with the profession of psychology are protected. The term 'intern' should not be used in relation to the title 'psychologist'. The Board's view is that provisionally registered psychologists undertaking a Masters or Doctorate degree for the purpose of general registration, but who have not yet been generally registered, must use the title 'provisional psychologist' **unless they are enrolled in a Board registrar program**.

Provisional registration is general registration as a psychologist with conditions that the psychologist is supervised in an approved program.

Provisional psychologists are not entitled to use the title 'provisional psychologist' for work outside an approved course of study or an approved period of supervised practice. The Board must approve any psychological work outside their approved pathway. For example, a provisional psychologist undertaking an accredited higher coursework degree pathway may only practise outside university placements and use the title 'provisional psychologist' on Board approval. A provisional psychologist undertaking a 4+2 program can only practice outside their approved internship and use the title 'provisional psychologist' on Board approval. The 'Application for

approval' forms are available on the Board's website. To determine whether to grant approval, the Board will take into consideration such issues as provision of adequate supervision and scope of practice in relation to protection of the public.

Candidates undertaking Masters or Doctorate degrees who are generally registered, but not endorsed, may only refer to themselves as 'psychologist' or 'registered psychologist'. Generally registered psychologists have unrestricted rights to use the title 'psychologist' and may undertake any work using that title as long as they are generally registered.

In addition, in accordance with the National Law, provisional psychologists must not take or use the title of 'psychologist' or 'registered psychologist', or any other title that might induce a belief that they hold either general registration or an endorsement under Part 7 of the National Law.

Under the National Law, s. 119 enables a board to instigate proceedings against a person claiming to hold an endorsement of registration for an approved area of practice when he or she does not, as it may constitute unprofessional conduct. Further information is also included in the Board's 'Advertising guidelines'.

2 Requirements for endorsement

2.1 General

To be eligible for endorsement in one of the approved areas of practice, a psychologist must have:

- (a) an accredited Doctorate degree in one of the approved areas of practice and at least one year of approved, supervised, full-time equivalent practice with a Board-approved supervisor; or
- (b) an accredited Masters degree in one of the approved areas of practice and a minimum of two years of approved, supervised, full-time equivalent practice with a Board-approved supervisor; or
- (c) another qualification that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to (a) or (b).

2.2 Multiple endorsements

A psychologist who already has one or more endorsements and is undertaking further training for another endorsement is only required to undertake 75% of the required supervision hours for that new endorsement following completion of their postgraduate studies. This recognises that there is an overlap in competencies between endorsed areas of practice. For example, a psychologist seeking a second endorsement that would normally require two years of supervised practice will only be required to undertake 18 months. A doctorate applicant who is normally required to undertake 12 months supervised practice will only be required to undertake nine months.

A psychologist who is not endorsed, but is simultaneously seeking two endorsements (e.g. through a higher degree program associated with two areas of practice or a dual-degree program) is required to undertake 75% of the

supervision required for each endorsement. For example, a psychologist who would normally be required to undertake ~~four~~ **two** years of supervised practice **in a dual professional doctorate** (~~two~~ **one** years for each area of practice), will only be required to undertake ~~48~~ **9** months in each area (i.e. ~~three~~ **1.5** years of supervision).

Accredited qualifications are listed at <http://www.apac.psychology.org.au>.

Note on Doctoral degrees: Only accredited professional doctorates that include both coursework and placement components are approved under 2.1 (a) above (i.e. DPsysc or PsyD). Combined PhD/Masters programs (or PhD programs with Masters degree equivalent coursework and placements) are accepted as equivalent to 2.1 (b), because the additional coursework and hours of supervision required in professional doctorates is not included in the requirements for these programs. The Board will provide some concession for practical work undertaken in the PhD (see 3.1.2 below). Overseas PhD programs with coursework will be assessed under 2.1 (c).

2.3 Equivalence guidelines

In granting endorsement under Section 2.1(c) of these guidelines, the Board will use the following to guide its judgement — qualifications that are considered to be substantially equivalent to an accredited Doctorate or Masters degree in one of the approved areas of practice are:

- psychology qualifications gained overseas that have been assessed by the Board or an authority authorised by the Board as being equivalent to an accredited Doctorate degree followed by a minimum of one year of supervised, full-time equivalent practise acceptable to the Board
- psychology qualifications gained overseas that have been assessed by the Board or an authority authorised by the Board as being equivalent to an accredited Masters degree followed by a minimum of two years of supervised, full-time equivalent practise acceptable to the Board
- postgraduate psychology qualifications gained in Australia before Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) began accrediting postgraduate professional degrees that have been assessed by the Board or an authority authorised by the Board as being equivalent to an accredited Masters or Doctorate degree, followed by supervised, full-time equivalent practise acceptable to the Board.

Psychologists who have an endorsement and want to practise in a second endorsed area are advised to apply to institutions offering accredited programs. Applicants may wish to request advanced standing or credit for work already undertaken. **The Board will consider accredited university postgraduate bridging programs, as they become available in future, under these equivalence guidelines, and will consult with the accreditation council in relation to the status and likely approval of such programs.**

2.4 Maintaining endorsement

To maintain endorsement in an approved area of practice, the psychologist must meet the requirements of the Board's registration standards on continuing professional development (CPD). Requirement 3 of this standard is 'As a general guide, CPD activities should be relevant to the psychologist's area of professional

practice, and have clear learning aims and objectives that meet the individual's requirements'. This means that psychologists are expected to obtain the majority of their CPD (i.e. greater than 15 hours) within their endorsed area(s) of practice. For a psychologist with more than one area of endorsement, all 30 hours of his or her CPD must be spread equally between the endorsed areas. Psychologists are not required by the Board to obtain additional CPD hours over and above the Board's general CPD standard of 30 hours per year.

3 Approved supervised practice (the registrar program) to gain an endorsement

3.1 General

~~In addition to holding an approved qualification, a period of supervised practice (the registrar program) is required to be eligible for endorsement. Before being accepted into a registrar program, the psychologist must be fully registered. Individuals completing higher psychology degrees (Masters, Doctorate, PhD) must complete all components of their degree and be on the graduation list before being eligible for full registration. If you have completed all degree components, including having any thesis accepted, you may apply for full registration before you have formally graduated (i.e. attended the graduation ceremony). The transcript must show you have completed your degree(s).~~

In addition to holding an approved qualification, a period of supervised practice (the registrar program) is required to be eligible for endorsement. Masters students must have completed all higher degree components (coursework, practicum, thesis), with a transcript showing the degree has been completed. You may apply for general registration, and then entry into the registrar program before you have formally graduated (i.e. attended the graduation ceremony). For Doctorate candidates (DPSyc, PsycD, combined Masters/PhD), you may apply to enter the registrar program after two years of postgraduate study if you have completed all coursework and placements, even if you have not finished your thesis or obtained general registration. A transcript and letter from your Head of School (or their nominee) must accompany your application to enter the registrar program certifying that you have completed all coursework and practicum placements in your degree program. The total duration of the registrar program must not exceed 5 years from the date of enrolment.

Final Endorsement is not granted until the candidate has completed both their higher degree and the Board approved Registrar program, and is generally registered.

3.1.1 General requirements of registrars during the registrar program

Registrars are expected to develop the capacity for continuing self-appraisal and appropriate consultation over the course of the registrar program. In particular they are expected to:

1. Identify the limit of their competence in any given situation and
 - (a) consult with their supervisor regularly with regard to their competence
 - (b) arrive at a mutually agreed upon course of action where competence is limited, in consultation with their supervisor

- (c) implement the agreed upon course of action (which may include seeking other professional opinion).
2. Identify broader areas in which they require CPD and
 - (a) arrive at a plan to develop these areas, in consultation with their supervisor
 - (b) monitor their progress in these areas and readjust the plan as necessary, in consultation with their supervisor (see Section 3.4 below).

3.1.2 Content of the registrar program

The registrar program consists of three components:

- psychological practice
- supervision with a Board-approved supervisor
- active continuing professional development.

The qualification held by the applicant for endorsement determines the level of each component required, as set out in Table 1.

Table 1 Qualifications for area of practice endorsement (approved supervised practice)

Qualification	Duration of psychological practice	Total supervision required during psychological practice	Total active professional development required during psychological practice
DPsych/PsyD degree	One year FTE	40 hours*	40 hours*
Masters degree	Two years FTE	80 hours*	80 hours*
Combined MPsc/PhD degree	Two years 1.5 years FTE	80 60 hours*	80 60 hours*

FTE: Full time equivalent

* The continuing professional development (CPD) and supervision hours in this table include the 30 total hours of CPD per year required for the CPD registration standard (10 hours supervision [peer consultation] and 20 hours CPD) and are not additional to the hours shown in the table.

The following forms are available and are required to be lodged to the Board:

- Form A — an application for approval to commence a registrar program
- Form B — a six-monthly progress report
- Form C — an application to change or modify the program
- Form D — a notice of final completion of the registrar program.

Before beginning a registrar program, the psychologist must submit a supervised practice plan (Form A) to the Board for approval, setting out in detail the practice,

supervision and professional development arrangements. The Board's approval must be granted before the registrar commences the registrar program.

Six-monthly progress reports must be submitted (Form B). Approval must be sought from the Board before any substantial change is made to the registrar program including changes to the work role or the supervisor (Form C). The psychologist is required to submit a final completion of the registrar program form to the Board (Form D). The registrar may then apply for endorsement of area of practice, subject to any further requirements of the Board.

The registrar program must address the core capabilities (Section 3.1.3) and incorporate the supervision and CPD requirements in Table 1.

3.1.3 Core competencies

Core competencies must be achieved by a psychologist with an area of practice endorsement at a level of depth and expertise appropriate to the approved area of practice endorsement following on from postgraduate training. These are:

- (a) knowledge of the discipline, including
 - i. psychological theories and models
 - ii. the empirical evidence for the theories and models
 - iii. the major methods of inquiry
- (b) ethical, legal and professional matters, including detailed knowledge and understanding of ethical, legal and professional issues relevant to the area of practice
- (c) psychological assessment and measurement relevant to the area of practice
- (d) intervention strategies relevant to the area of practice
- (e) research and evaluation, including the systematic identification, critical appraisal and application of relevant research evidence
- (f) communication and interpersonal relationships, including the ability to communicate in written and oral format from a psychological perspective in a style appropriate to a variety of different audiences, and to interact professionally with a wide range of client groups and other professionals
- (g) working within a cross-cultural context, including demonstrating core capabilities to adequately practise with clients from cultures and lifestyles different from the psychologist's own
- (h) practice across the lifespan, which involves demonstrating the core capabilities with clients in childhood, adolescence, adulthood and late adulthood.

The application of the areas of practice relevant to each endorsement can be described as follows:

- clinical neuropsychologists specialise in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of psychological disorders associated with conditions affecting the brain
- clinical psychologists are specialists in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of psychological problems and mental illness
- counselling psychologists are specialists in the provision of psychological therapy, and provide psychological assessment and psychotherapy for individuals, couples, families and groups, and treat a wide range of psychological problems

- educational and developmental psychologists are concerned with how people develop and learn throughout their lives
- forensic psychologists apply psychological theory and skills to the understanding and functioning of the legal and criminal justice system
- organisational psychologists specialise in analysing organisations and their people, and devising strategies to recruit, motivate, develop, change and inspire
- sport and exercise psychologists study psychological and mental factors that influence, and are influenced by, participation in sport, exercise and physical activity, and the application of this knowledge to everyday settings.

For further descriptions of these areas of practice, see the Australian Psychological Society's website at <http://www.psychology.org.au/community>.

3.2 Psychological practice

Psychological practice is defined in the Registrar program as follows: Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a psychologist in their profession. In accordance with the Recency of practice standard, 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.

To be approved by the Board for the purpose of the registrar program, the psychological practice must:

- be within an area of practice approved for endorsement
- ~~commence after the completion of the requirements of the relevant qualifications~~
- ~~consist of at least 17.5 hours per week; full-time psychological practice is considered to be 35 hours per week over a 44 week year (allowing eight weeks of annual and personal leave).~~
- **include a minimum of 176 hours per annum of direct client contact. Client contact means direct client contact performing specific tasks of psychological assessment, intervention and prevention.**

3.3 Supervision

To be approved by the Board for the purpose of the registrar program, the supervision must be:

- provided by a Board-approved supervisor who is endorsed to practise in the field of practice being supervised (a Board-approved supervisor who is endorsed to practise in a different field is allowable for a maximum of 25% of the registrar program)

- provided at least fortnightly when practising, regardless of how many hours have been provided previously and regardless of the number of hours per week of psychological practice completed
- at least one hour per session
- on an individual (one on one) basis
- provided at a minimum rate of 40 hours per full-time equivalent year of psychological practice
- face-to-face or via an alternative delivery (e.g. Skype, telephone)
- relevant to the core competencies (a) through (h)

The registrar must submit a report from their Board-approved supervisor to the Board each six months using Form B.

3.4 Continuing professional development

Continuing professional development for the purposes of gaining endorsement must meet the requirements of 'active continuing professional development', that is, activities that engage the psychologist in active training through written or oral activities designed to enhance and test learning. As such, the CPD activities must meet adult learning criteria. Examples of active CPD include:

- attending seminars where there is a written test
- reading a structured series of professional psychology articles followed by completing an online assessment
- doing an oral presentation or tutorial to a group of peers on a new topic in psychology
- attending a workshop that requires role play of skills
- studying a new technique, followed by trialling this technique in the workplace, and a review and evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of that technique.

Where activities are not inherently active, the supervisor must be involved to ensure that the activities become active. For example, if CPD activities are not inherently active, the supervisor must set written work or another activity (e.g. an oral report) to meet the active requirement.

In consultation with the supervisor, the registrar should:

- design a CPD program with clear learning aims and objectives that meet the registrar's practice requirements, as well as the requirements of these guidelines and the CPD registration standard
- ensure any workshops are directly relevant to the area of practice to which the registrar program relates
- abide by the recording requirements as set out in the Board's template for CPD.

4 Board-approved supervisors

4.1 General

To be approved by the Board to provide supervision for the purposes of endorsement in an approved area of practice, the supervisor must:

- hold general registration as a psychologist
- hold endorsement in the approved area of practice for at least two years before commencement of supervision and continue to be endorsed throughout the period of supervision (note: transitional provisions apply to this requirement until 30 June 2013)
- have completed a Board-approved training program in psychology supervision and maintain currency of approval (note: transitional provisions to enable supervisors to complete an approved training program apply until 30 June 2013)
- not be a member of the supervisee's immediate family or household
- neither have been nor be currently engaged in a therapeutic relationship with the supervisee.

4.2 Maintaining approved supervisor status

An approved supervisor will be required to renew his or her status every five years. In applying for renewal, the supervisor will be required to provide a declaration as to how many psychologists he or she has supervised in the preceding five-year period, how his or her supervised practice and professional development have been maintained, and show evidence of completion of a supervision revision course approved by the Board.

4.3 General requirements of supervisors during the registrar program

1. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure registrars have adequate knowledge of relevant research, theory and policy before intervention.
2. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure registrars have access to appropriate intervention models, such that undue intervention bias does not operate as a consequence of the supervisory relationship.
3. It is the supervisor's responsibility to bring to the registrar's attention any limitations of competence, ethical difficulty, personal bias or aspect of personal development in the registrar that the supervisor perceives to be affecting the registrar's professional development and/or professional application.
4. Supervisors are expected to offer sufficient supervision opportunities such that the competencies outlined can be examined on a regular basis. Supervisors are expected to keep weekly documentation.
5. Supervisors are expected to directly observe registrar's work as part of the supervision process, or by video or audio tape.
6. Supervisors are expected to view active files of the registrar intermittently as part of the supervision process.

5 Examination

The Board may require the psychologist to pass an examination after completing the supervised practice plan, prior to having a final endorsement application accepted.

6 Application for endorsement

On completion of the above requirements, a final notice of completion (Form D) must be signed by the supervisor and lodged with the Board along with an application for endorsement. **Endorsement will only be granted upon completion of all relevant qualifications, general registration, and completion of the registrar program. The notice of completion must be lodged within 5 years from the date of enrolment, otherwise the enrolment will lapse.**

Definitions

The Board means the Psychology Board of Australia.

National Law means the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*.

Ministerial Council means the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council comprising ministers of the governments of the participating jurisdictions and the Australian Government with portfolio responsibility for health.

Registrar means a generally registered psychologist who has completed a Masters or Doctorate degree in an endorsed area of practice, and who is currently undertaking a Board-approved supervised practice program (a registrar program) for the purpose of gaining an endorsement in an approved area of practice.

Registrar program means a Board-approved supervised practice program for the purpose of gaining an area of practice endorsement with a Board-approved supervisor.

Standard means a registration standard approved by the Ministerial Council. In this guideline, the standard is for area of practice endorsements.

Active continuing professional development means professional learning activities in the endorsed area of practice that engage the participant in active training through written or oral activities designed to enhance and test learning.

References

Psychology Board of Australia (2010). *Area of practice endorsements standard*, Psychology Board of Australia, Melbourne.

Date of issue: 1 July 2010; *Revised Consultation August 2010
Date of review: This guideline will be reviewed at least every three years
Last reviewed:

Attachment A — Extract of relevant sections from the National Law²

General provisions

Division 3 Registration standards and codes and guidelines

39 Codes and guidelines

A National Board may develop and approve codes and guidelines —

- (a) to provide guidance to the health practitioners it registers; and
- (b) about other matters relevant to the exercise of its functions.

Example. A National Board may develop guidelines about the advertising of regulated health services by health practitioners registered by the Board or other persons for the purposes of section 133.

40 Consultation about registration standards, codes and guidelines

- (1) If a National Board develops a registration standard or a code or guideline, it must ensure there is wide-ranging consultation about its content.
- (2) A contravention of subsection (1) does not invalidate a registration standard, code or guideline.
- (3) The following must be published on a National Board's website —
 - (a) a registration standard developed by the Board and approved by the Ministerial Council;
 - (b) a code or guideline approved by the National Board.
- (4) An approved registration standard or a code or guideline takes effect —
 - (a) on the day it is published on the National Board's website; or
 - (b) if a later day is stated in the registration standard, code or guideline, on that day.

41 Use of registration standards, codes or guidelines in disciplinary proceedings

An approved registration standard for a health profession, or a code or guideline approved by a National Board, is admissible in proceedings under this Law or a law of a co-regulatory jurisdiction against a health practitioner registered by the Board as evidence of what constitutes appropriate professional conduct or practice for the health profession.

Specific provisions

15 Approval of areas of practice for purposes of endorsement

The Ministerial Council may, on the recommendation of a National Board, approve an area of practice in the health profession for which the Board is established as being an area of practice for which the registration of a health practitioner registered in the profession may be endorsed.

Note: See section 98 which provides for the endorsement of health practitioners' registration in relation to approved areas of practice.

² The National Law is contained in the schedule to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld).

98 Endorsements in relation to approved areas of practice

- (1) A National Board established for a health profession may, in accordance with an approval given by the Ministerial Council under section 15, endorse the registration of a registered health practitioner registered by the Board as being qualified to practise in an approved area of practice for the health profession if the practitioner —
 - (a) holds either of the following qualifications relevant to the endorsement —
 - (i) an approved qualification
 - (ii) another qualification that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved qualification; and
 - (b) complies with an approved registration standard relevant to the endorsement.
- (2) An endorsement under subsection (1) must state —
 - (a) the approved area of practice to which the endorsement relates; and
 - (b) any conditions applicable to the practice by the registered health practitioner in an approved area of practice.

99 Application for endorsement

- (1) An individual may apply to a National Board for endorsement of the individual's registration.
- (2) The application must —
 - (a) be in the form approved by the National Board; and
 - (b) be accompanied by the relevant fee; and
 - (c) be accompanied by any other information reasonably required by the Board.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c), the information a National Board may require an applicant to provide includes —
 - (a) evidence of the qualifications in the health profession the applicant believes qualifies the applicant for endorsement; and
 - (b) evidence of successful completion of any period or supervised practice required by an approved registration standard; and
 - (c) if the applicant is required to complete an examination or assessment set by or on behalf of the Board, evidence of the successful completion of the examination or assessment.

Attachment B — Area of practice endorsements standard

Psychology Board of Australia

Area of practice endorsements standard

Summary

Registered psychologists who practice in certain areas of psychology may be eligible for endorsement in an approved area of practice.

The approved areas of practice for endorsement of registration are:

- (a) clinical psychology
- (b) counselling psychology
- (c) forensic psychology
- (d) clinical neuropsychology
- (e) organisational psychology
- (f) sport and exercise psychology, and
- (g) educational and developmental psychology.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for general registration and registered psychologists who have general registration. It does not apply to any other category of registration.

Requirements

To be eligible for endorsement in one of the approved areas of practice a registered psychologist must have:

- (a) an accredited doctorate in one of the approved areas of practice, and a minimum one year of approved supervised full-time equivalent practice with a Board approved supervisor; or
- (b) an accredited Masters in one of the approved areas of practice, and a minimum of two years of approved supervised full-time equivalent practice with a Board-approved supervisor; or
- (c) another qualification that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to (a) or (b).

References

Psychology Board of Australia Endorsement Guidelines are available on the Board's website.

Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.