

**Community Services Submission on the Psychology Board of Australia
Guideline:
Approved training programs in psychology supervision**

The draft guideline developed by the Psychology Board of Australia provides the basis for comprehensive supervisor training to enhance intern supervision in order to ensure the competency of registered psychologists who have completed the process.

The broad list of competencies to be developed in supervisors needs to include an understanding of the issues around difference and diversity in supervision. This may be part of the fundamental principles in the first dot point but it is so easily overlooked that it should be a separate point. Effective supervisors should consider that cultural differences affect their attitudes towards and interactions with those they supervise.

Supervision is basic to good, safe psychological practice; however, there can be a tendency to discount the amount of supervision needed by experienced psychologists. The Psychology Board of Australia has a unique opportunity to support the provision of regular, one to one, clinical supervision for all psychologists by including reference to this process in the Guideline. If the Board does not mention ongoing supervision in its Guideline then it gives no support to the allocation of time for supervision for all psychologists, wherever they work.

The Board could include a strong statement about the importance of supervision for all psychological practice in the Introduction or Background. For example, it could say:

Supervision is basic to good psychological practice. It is an important means of improving competencies through facilitating reflection on practice and promoting accountability of all psychologists.

Such a statement should be followed by a recommendation that supervisors of experienced psychologists, as well as those who supervise interns, complete supervision training programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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