27 April 2018

Psychology Board of Australia
G.P.O. Box 9958
MELBOURNE   VIC   3001

To Professor Brin Grenyer and Psychology Board of Australia,

RE:  Consultation Paper 29 - Revised guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed amendments to the supervisor guidelines. Our responses to 3 of the Psychology Board of Australia’s questions are below:

1. Which option do you prefer – the status quo or the (two) new guidelines?

   We prefer the new guidelines (option 2) which serve to simplify the supervision requirements.

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of moving from the current guidelines and revocation policies to the draft guidelines?

   The proposed simplification is critical for the continuation of higher degree programmes. We commend the PsyBA for recognising that a simplification of this process was needed to engage supervisors and support the future of Psychology in Australia.

3. Is there any content that needs to be added to, deleted from, or changed in the draft guidelines?

   The reference to APAC accreditation is irrelevant and potentially undermines the PsyBA’s authority regarding supervisor approvals. The new APAC standards, which will be implemented after Jan 2019, refer to supervisors of students in practical settings needing to be a Board Approved Supervisor (Criterion 1.8). Therefore, the Board should remove the circular reference to APAC accreditation as it is confusing and is irrelevant to the approval of someone as a board-approved supervisor.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Paul Morrison
Interim Dean
School of Psychology and Exercise Science