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22 December 2009

The Hon John Hill MP
Chair, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council
Minister for Health
GPO Box 2555
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Dear Minister

Proposals for Ministerial Council approval

I am pleased to submit the attached proposals from the Psychology Board of Australia on mandatory registration standards and proposals for provisional registration, general registration and area of practice endorsements for the Ministerial Council's approval.

The proposals for registration standards and area of practice endorsements are submitted in line with schedule 7, clause 30 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld) (the National Law), for approval by the Ministerial Council under sections 12 and 13 of the National Law.

The proposals submitted relate to:

- criminal history registration standard
- english language requirements registration standard
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard
- continuing professional development registration standard
- recency of practice registration standard
- registration standard for general registration
- registration standard for provisional registration, and

- area of practice endorsements for:
 - clinical psychology
 - counselling psychology
 - forensic psychology
 - clinical neuropsychology
 - organisational psychology
 - sport and exercise psychology
 - community psychology
 - health psychology, and
 - educational and developmental psychology.

Common minimum registration standards across all boards are proposed for criminal history matters and English language requirements registration standards.

The proposals have been subject to wide-ranging consultation as required in relation to registration standards by section 40 of the National Law, and comments have been received from the sector, governments and other stakeholders. The Board has found it very useful during the consultation process to receive advice agreed across jurisdictions from the heads of all health departments in Australia on their views on the matters under consideration.

In response to this advice and based on the submissions received from stakeholders the Board wishes to provide background in relation to its proposal as to how it responded to the AHMAC Governance Committee for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The Psychology Board of Australia has responded to and accepted all of the nine recommendations from the AHMAC committee, but proposes a revision to the endorsement list.

The Board accepts the recommendation from the AHMAC Governance Committee that the appropriate arrangement under the national law is for areas of practice endorsement rather than specialist registration for the psychology profession at this stage. The Board notes that the Governance Committee recommended four areas of practice for endorsement. The Board has noted this advice, but has chosen to put forward for Ministerial Council consideration five additional endorsements.

In doing so the Board wishes to draw the attention of Ministers to three considerations:

First, the practice of psychology is not exclusive to ‘clinical’ mental health matters. The nine areas of practice proposed for endorsement *are* health related, in that they either address health problems directly, or promote ongoing health, well-being, prevention of illness and personal effectiveness. The areas of practice proposed for endorsement are currently recognised areas of practice within the community and the profession. There are established Australian Psychology Accreditation Council accredited postgraduate training programs in these areas, over and above undergraduate qualifications. These areas are supported by the Board, members of which are representative of these areas of practice. The proposal is consistent with

advanced areas of professional practice recognised by the peak professional body within this country, the Australian Psychological Society Ltd (APS).

Second, there are significant public protection arguments for including these key areas of practice endorsement for the profession of psychology to those already suggested by the Governance Committee. It is the Board's view that these arguments outweigh the costs of additional regulation. There are risks to the public in the specific practice of these branches of psychology, in that they deal with more challenging cases and use more complex techniques and treatments that require judgements that carry higher risk. An endorsement function allows the Board to take a more active role in promoting the psychological welfare of the community, through ensuring quality of services and the provision of adequate training and supervision for the psychology profession. Within the advanced scopes of practice of the endorsed areas recommended, there are greater risks to public health and safety, such as can occur from the misdiagnosis of children with developmental disorders. Our view is that the current system of self-regulation does not provide adequate protection, and that there are benefits for the community in having the Board take a more active role in this area which outweigh any risks of exacerbating rigidities in the workforce. All psychologists will be on a single register, and will be able to respond flexibly to health service needs across any area of psychology practice. The endorsement arrangements will provide better information, and will not of themselves restrict scopes of professional practice. The endorsement process will allow the health system and members of the public to identify who has advanced skills and is well qualified to deal with complex cases in each of the areas of practice proposed for endorsement.

Third, the approach recommended by the Governance Committee is not fully consistent with the basis on which the psychology profession has been included in the national law. The national law provides for all psychologists to be registered, whether they practise in areas which could be described as part of the health system, or not. It follows that when 'protection of the public' issues arise in relation to the full breadth of psychology practice, including issues arising from 'non-health practice', these issues need to be addressed by mechanisms established under the national law, such as areas of practice endorsement.

The Psychology Board would like to address a final issue in response to views expressed by the Governance Committee concerning the phasing out of the 4+2 (internship) pathway to general registration. The Psychology Board proposes to instigate a review in 2010 of this program in relation to considerations of workforce supply and the provision of adequate accredited training places, to overcome the limitations of this registration pathway.

I advise that the development of the proposals has been consistent with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's *Procedures for Development of Registration Standards* which the Agency has issued under section 20(1)(a) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008* (Qld).

The Board looks forward to receiving the approval of the Ministerial Council for its proposals for registration standards under section 12 of the National Law, and its proposals for area of practice endorsement under section 15 of the National Law.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Brin Grenyer', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia



Proposals to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on registration standards and related matters

1 Mandatory registration standards

1.1 Criminal history

Psychology Board of Australia Criminal history standard

Summary

In deciding whether a health practitioner's criminal history is relevant to the practice of their profession, the Board will consider the 10 factors set out in this standard. While every case will need to be decided on an individual basis, these 10 factors provide the basis for the Board's consideration.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants and all registered health practitioners. It does not apply to students.

Requirements

In deciding whether a health practitioner's criminal history is relevant to the practice of their profession, the Board will consider the following factors:

1. The nature and gravity of the offence or alleged offence and its relevance to health practice.

The more serious the offence or alleged offence and the greater its relevance to health practice, the more weight that the Board will assign to it.

2. The period of time since the health practitioner committed, or allegedly committed, the offence.

The Board will generally place greater weight on more recent offences.

3. Whether a finding of guilt or a conviction was recorded for the offence or a charge for the offence is still pending.

In considering the relevance of the criminal history information, the Board is to have regard to the type of criminal history information provided. The following types of criminal history information are to be considered, in descending order of relevance:

- (a) convictions
- (b) findings of guilt
- (c) pending charges
- (d) nonconviction charges; that is, charges that have been resolved otherwise than by a conviction or finding of guilt, taking into account the availability and source of contextual information which may explain why a nonconviction charge did not result in a conviction or finding of guilt.

4. The sentence imposed for the offence.

The weight the Board will place on the sentence will generally increase as the significance of the sentence increases, including any custodial period imposed. The Board will also consider any mitigating factors raised in sentencing, where available, including rehabilitation.

5. The ages of the health practitioner and of any victim at the time the health practitioner committed, or allegedly committed, the offence.

The Board may place less weight on offences committed when the applicant is younger, and particularly under 18 years of age. The Board may place more weight on offences involving victims under 18 years of age or other vulnerable persons.

6. Whether or not the conduct that constituted the offence or to which the charge relates has been decriminalised since the health practitioner committed, or allegedly committed, the offence.

The Board will generally place less or no weight on offences that have been decriminalised since the health practitioner committed, or allegedly committed, the offence.

7. The health practitioner's behaviour since he or she committed, or allegedly committed, the offence.

Indications that the offence was an aberration and evidence of good conduct or rehabilitation since the commission, or alleged commission of the offence, will tend to be a mitigating factor. However, indications that the offence is part of a pattern of behaviour will tend to have the opposite effect.

8. The likelihood of future threat to a patient of the health practitioner.

The Board is likely to place significant weight on the likelihood of future threat to a patient or client of the health practitioner.

9. Any information given by the health practitioner.

Any information provided by the health practitioner, such as an explanation or mitigating factors, will be reviewed by the Board and taken into account in considering the health practitioner's criminal history.

10. Any other matter that the Board considers relevant.

The Board may take into account any other matter that it considers relevant to the application or notification. A Board will not require an applicant or registered health practitioner to provide further information that may prejudice their personal situation pending charges and the Board must not draw any adverse inference as a result of the fact that information has not been provided.

Note: the above factors have been numbered for ease of reference only. The numbering does not indicate a priority order of application.

Definitions

Criminal history is defined in the Schedule of the National Law as:

- every conviction of the person for an offence, in a participating jurisdiction or elsewhere, and whether before or after the commencement of this Law,
- every plea of guilty or finding of guilt by a court of the person for an offence, in a participating jurisdiction or elsewhere, and whether before or after the commencement of this Law and whether or not a conviction is recorded for the offence
- every charge made against the person for an offence, in a participating jurisdiction or elsewhere, and whether before or after the commencement of this Law.

Under the National Law, spent convictions legislation does not apply to criminal history disclosure requirements.

Review

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

1.2 English language skills

Psychology Board of Australia English language skills standard

Summary

All internationally qualified applicants for registration as a psychologist, or applicants for registration who did not complete their secondary education in English must be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary English language skills for registration. All applicants must be able to demonstrate English language skills at IELTS academic level 7 or the equivalent, and achieve the required minimum score in each component of the IELTS academic module (see 'Definitions', below).

Test results must be obtained within two years prior to applying for registration. The Board may grant an exemption in specified circumstances.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for initial registration. It does not apply to students.

Requirements

1. An applicant for registration as a psychologist who is:
 - an internationally qualified applicant; or
 - an applicant who has graduated from an approved program of study but did not undertake and complete their secondary education in English and in any of the countries specified in Exemption 1 belowmust submit evidence of secondary education, or arrange for evidence to be provided (in the case of test results), to the relevant Board of competency in English language skills.
2. The following tests of English language proficiency are accepted by the Board for the purpose of meeting this standard: the IELTS examination (academic module) with a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).
3. Results must have been obtained within two years prior to applying for registration. An IELTS (or approved equivalent) Test Report Form more than two years old may be accepted as current if accompanied by proof that a candidate:
 - (a) has actively maintained employment as a registered health practitioner using English as the primary language of practice in a country where English is the native or first language; or
 - (b) is a registered student and has been continuously enrolled in an approved program of study since the test result was obtained.
4. Results from any of the English language examinations listed above must be obtained in one sitting.
5. The applicant is responsible for the cost of English tests.
6. The applicant must make arrangements for test results to be provided directly to the Board by the testing authority, for example, by secure internet login.

Exemptions

1. The Board may grant an exemption from the requirements where the applicant provides evidence that:
 - (a) they undertook and completed secondary education that was taught and assessed in English in one of the countries listed below where English is the native or first language; and
 - (b) the applicant's tertiary qualifications in the relevant professional discipline were taught and assessed in English in one of the countries listed below, where English is the native or first language:
 - Australia
 - Canada
 - New Zealand
 - Republic of Ireland
 - South Africa
 - United Kingdom
 - United States of America.
2. The Board may grant an exemption where an applicant applies for limited registration in special circumstances, such as:
 - (a) to perform a demonstration in clinical techniques
 - (b) to undertake research that involves limited or no patient contact
 - (c) to undertake a period of postgraduate study or supervised training while working in an appropriately supported environment that will ensure patient safety is not compromised.

These special circumstances exemptions will generally be subject to conditions requiring supervision by a registered health practitioner and may also require the use of an interpreter.

3. The Board reserves the right at any time to revoke an exemption and/or require an applicant to undertake a specified English language test.

Definitions

IELTS means the International English Language Testing System developed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, The British Council and IDP Education Australia (see <http://www.ielts.org/>).

An **internationally qualified applicant** means a person who qualified as a psychologist outside Australia.

One sitting means the period of time set by the testing authority for completion of the test. For example, IELTS states that the listening, reading and writing components of the test are always completed on the same day. Depending on the test centre, the speaking test may be taken up to seven days either before or after the test date.

Review

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

1.3 Professional indemnity insurance arrangements

Psychology Board of Australia

Professional indemnity insurance arrangements standard

Summary

To be eligible for registration, an applicant for registration must declare that there is or will be in force professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements to adequately cover his or her practice of the profession.

If granted registration or renewal of registration, a registered psychologist must not practise unless PII arrangements are in force.

A registered psychologist must be covered by either an individual insurance arrangement or an employer's or education provider's insurance arrangement, or both. However, if covered by another party, the cover must meet this standard. If an employer's or education provider's insurance arrangement does not meet this standard, the individual must take out additional cover to ensure he or she meets the standard.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for registration and registered psychologists. It does not apply to registered students and practitioners who have nonpractising registration.

Requirements

1. Professional indemnity arrangements must include:
 - (a) civil liability cover
 - (b) unlimited retroactive cover
 - (c) run-off cover; and
 - (d) two automatic reinstatements during the period of cover.
2. PII arrangements must include, but are not limited to, cover for any breach or alleged breach of professional duty of care, any breach of professional codes or ethics, complaints received in relation to professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld) (National Law), or relevant regulatory laws in the State or Territory, and complaints received in relation to any privacy laws.
3. An individual may be covered by either an individual insurance arrangement or an employer's or education provider's insurance arrangement, or both. However, if covered by another party, the cover must meet this standard. If an employer's or education provider's insurance arrangement does not meet this standard, the individual must take out additional cover to ensure he or she meets the standard.
4. An applicant for registration must declare that he or she has or will have a PII arrangement in force prior to practising as a registered psychologist. If professional indemnity insurance cover is in force at time of application, the applicant will be required to provide details.
5. An applicant for renewal of registration must make a declaration that he or she has a PII arrangement in force in accordance with this standard.
6. Provision of psychological services is not limited to full-time paid employment. Therefore, any person practising as a registered psychologist, including those working as an independent practitioner, in part-time practice, or undertaking voluntary work, must be covered by PII arrangements in accordance with this standard.
7. Random audits of registered psychologists will be conducted on an annual basis to ensure that psychologists are in compliance with this standard. The Board will notify registered psychologists in writing if selected for audit. The registered psychologist will be required to provide evidence of PII arrangements for the period requested by the Board.
8. A registered psychologist is required to maintain certificates of currency for the duration of his or her registration as a psychologist. The Board may request to see evidence of PII arrangements for any period of registration.

9. Alternatively, if a PII arrangement is provided by another party such as an employer, the registered psychologist upon request must provide a copy of the certificate of currency certified as a true copy by a person who can witness statutory declarations or a letter from the employer declaring that the organisation's PII arrangement covers the registered psychologist, states the period of cover, and that the cover meets this standard.
- 10 In the event that a registered psychologist has failed to meet the requirements of the standard the Board may:
 - (a) refuse to renew registration or endorsement; or
 - (b) instigate disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the National Law, Part 8, or the relevant legislation applying to that jurisdiction.

DISCLAIMER: This standard sets out the minimum requirements for PII arrangements. An individual must ensure that he or she has appropriate arrangements in place that cover his or her particular type of practice.

Definitions

Professional indemnity insurance arrangements means arrangements that secure for the practitioner insurance against civil liability incurred by, or loss arising from, a claim that is made as a result of a negligent act, error or omission in the conduct of the practitioner. This type of insurance is available to practitioners and organisations across a range of industries and covers the costs and expenses of defending a legal claim, as well as any damages payable. Some government organisations under policies of the owning government are self-insured for the same range of matters

Run-off cover means insurance that protects a practitioner who has ceased a particular practice or business against claims that arise out of activities that occurred when he or she was conducting that practice or business. This type of cover may be included in a PII policy or may need to be purchased separately.

Retroactive cover means arrangements that provide recognition for all past activities.

Review

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

1.4 Continuing professional development

Psychology Board of Australia Continuing professional development standard

Summary

A requirement of annual renewal of registration is participation in a Board-approved program of continuing professional development (CPD).

Registered psychologists have a responsibility to ensure that they continue to maintain, enhance and extend their knowledge and skills throughout their working lives. Consumers also have an expectation that registered psychologists providing professional services do so in a competent and contemporary manner.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all registered psychologists. It does not apply to practitioners who have student registration, provisional registration and nonpractising registration.

A registered psychologist who has been registered for less than 12 months at the time of application for renewal of registration or endorsement must have accumulated the minimum number of CPD hours for every month of registration. For example, 30 hours per year equates to 2.5 hours per month.

Requirements

1. An applicant for renewal of registration or endorsement must declare that he or she has completed the minimum requirements of the CPD standard, in the previous 12-month registration period, that applies to his or her registration category.
2. A registered psychologist must complete a minimum of 30 hours of CPD activities annually. Of these 30, a minimum of 10 hours must be peer consultation and 10 hours are recommended to be 'active' CPD activities.
3. 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.
4. A registered psychologist is required to develop a learning plan based on a self-assessment of skills and knowledge, which ascertains areas for development or improvement and enhances life-long learning. Professional development activities selected should:
 - (a) be outcome focused
 - (b) seek to ensure continued competence in the psychologist's area of practice
 - (c) seek to ensure activities have contributed to the quality of a psychologist's practice, which results in the maintenance of high-quality client services.
5. A registered psychologist must maintain an up-to-date CPD portfolio that includes:
 - (a) a learning plan, as previously described, which also includes desired outcomes
 - (b) how the CPD relates to the psychologist's professional development; and
 - (c) all CPD activities undertaken.
6. In addition to the CPD portfolio, where applicable, registered psychologists are required to retain any receipts, tax invoices or certificates of attendance to verify participation in CPD activities.
7. Registered psychologists may participate in a professional development program through their professional society or an equivalent program; however, participation in these programs must meet the minimum requirements of this standard.
8. Portfolios that are maintained for alternate programs, and contain the information required in this standard, will be accepted by the Board.

9. Random audits of registered psychologists will be undertaken annually. A registered psychologist will be notified in writing that he or she has been selected for audit and will be required to submit their CPD portfolio and evidence of participation in CPD activities.

Requirements during the first year of national registration

The Board recognises that not all registered psychologists transitioning to the national register have been subject to CPD requirements. Accordingly, applicants for renewal of registration during the period from 1 July 2010–30 November 2010 are exempt from this standard.

Exemptions

1. Special circumstances:
 - (a) An applicant for renewal of registration who wishes the Board to consider an application for partial exemption from this standard, due to ill health, maternity/paternity leave or other special circumstances, must submit a request in writing to the Board prior to the expiry of registration for the Board's consideration. The submission must include the nature of the special circumstance and the period of time during the previous registration period for which an exemption is being requested.

Failure to comply with this standard

1. In the event that a registered psychologist has failed to meet the requirements of this standard the Board may:
 - (a) refuse to renew registration or endorsement; and/or
 - (b) impose a condition on registration requiring the registered psychologist to successfully complete:
 - additional CPD activities within a specified period; and/or
 - further education; and/or
 - a period of supervised practice with a Board approved supervisor; and/or
 - (c) require the registered psychologist to undergo a performance assessment; and/or
 - (d) require the registered psychologist to undergo an examination; and/or
 - (e) instigate disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Part 8 of the National Law or the relevant legislation applying to that jurisdiction.

Definitions

Continuing professional development is the means by which members of the profession maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal qualities required in their professional lives.

Peer consultation means supervision and consultation in individual or group format, for the purposes of professional development and support in the practice of psychology and includes a critically reflective focus on the practitioner's own practice.

Active CPD refers to continuous professional development activities that engage the participant in active training through written or oral activities designed to enhance and test learning.

References

Psychology Board of Australia Guidelines on CPD will be 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.

1.5 Recency of practice

Psychology Board of Australia

Recency of practice standard

Summary

An applicant for registration or endorsement or renewal of registration or endorsement must demonstrate satisfactory evidence of recent practice as a registered psychologist within the five years prior to the date of application for registration or endorsement, or renewal of registration or endorsement.

In order to practise as a psychologist in Australia, an individual must be registered by the Board. On this basis, the Board will not accept:

- (a) unregistered practice involving activities of a psychological nature; or
- (b) practice involving activities of a nonpsychological nature despite these being performed by a registered psychologist, as satisfactory evidence of recent professional practice.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for registration and registered psychologists. It does not apply to applicants applying for or renewing nonpractising registration or student registration

This standard applies to all applicants equally, whether they practise full or part-time or whether work is remunerated or not. The standard commences immediately after an individual qualifies for registration. For example, an individual is qualified for general registration immediately upon successful completion of a Board-approved minimum six-year sequence of study or equivalent. This standard also applies to applicants for provisional registration, or renewal of provisional registration, in certain circumstances. See 'Requirements' section for details.

Requirements

1. An individual must, at the time the application is made, be able to demonstrate that he or she has practised unconditionally as a registered psychologist within the previous five years. A person who is eligible for registration and applies for registration within five years of successfully completing a Board-approved sequence of study required for registration is exempt from this standard.
2. An applicant who has not practised as a registered psychologist for five years or more is not automatically eligible for registration or renewal of registration, but may be required to undertake remedial action in order to become eligible for registration or renewal of registration. If the Board grants or renews registration under these circumstances, it may impose a condition on registration that the applicant must undertake remedial action within a specified period.
3. Where questions arise as to the quantity or type of practice, and whether it constitutes 'psychology practice' for the purposes of this standard, the Board will determine such matters on a case-by-case basis.
4. If a previously registered provisional psychologist who was participating in an internship program applies for provisional registration five years or more since expiry of registration, any previous completed components of the internship program will not be accepted by the Board. In this situation, the applicant for registration will be required to recommence the internship program.
5. If a provisional psychologist, on application for renewal of registration has a leave of absence of five or more years within their internship program, any previous completed components of the internship program will not be accepted by the Board and the applicant for renewal of registration will be required to recommence the internship program.

Inability to comply with this standard

1. In the event that an applicant for registration or renewal of registration is unable to demonstrate evidence of recent practice in accordance with this standard, the Board may:
 - (a) refuse registration or endorsement or renewal of registration or endorsement; or
 - (b) grant or renew registration, but impose a condition on registration or endorsement that the applicant must undertake a period of supervised practice under the supervision of a supervisor approved by the Board;

and/or

- (c) require the applicant to undergo a performance assessment; and/or
- (d) require the applicant to successfully complete further education aimed at remedying shortfalls in their professional knowledge or skills resulting from their recent lack of practice; and/or
- (e) require the applicant to successfully complete an examination.

Definitions

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a psychologist in their profession. For the purposes of this registration 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.

Recency of practice means that a practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in, the profession since qualifying or obtaining registration.

Review

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

2 Board-specific standards

2.1 General registration

Psychology Board of Australia General registration standard
Summary
<p>The Board has determined that the qualifications that lead to general registration are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)-accredited Master's degree; or(b) a five year APAC-approved sequence of study followed by a one year Board approved internship (5+1); or(c) a four year APAC-approved sequence of study followed by a two year Board approved internship (4+2); or(d) a qualification that in the Board's opinion is substantially equivalent to either (a), (b) or (c). <p>In addition to the completion of an approved qualification the Board may require the passing of an examination prior to accepting an application for general registration.</p>
Scope of application
<p>This standard applies to all applicants for general registration.</p>
Requirements
<p>To be eligible for general registration an applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) must have successfully completed a Board-approved qualification(b) must meet the eligibility requirements of the legislation, including any registration standard set by the Board; and(c) may be required to submit evidence of completion of a Board-approved examination.
Review
<p>This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.</p>

2.2 Provisional registration

Psychology Board of Australia Provisional registration standard

Summary

An applicant for provisional registration as a psychologist must have completed an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)-approved four-year sequence of psychology study, or a sequence of study that in the opinion of the Board is substantially equivalent. Provisional registration is granted to enable an individual to complete years five and six of supervised practice as part of a minimum six-year sequence of study approved by the Board in order to become eligible for general registration.

The Board has determined that the qualification that leads to registration as a general psychologist is a six-year APAC-accredited sequence of study, comprising a Master's degree minimum qualification or equivalent. The Board will recognise the following six-year sequences of study as equivalent:

- (a) a five-year APAC-approved sequence of study followed by a one-year Board-approved internship (5+1); or
- (b) a four-year APAC-approved sequence of study followed by a two-year Board-approved internship (4+2).

A provisional psychologist may not undertake dual pathways, that is, mixing components of two different pathways to make up a six-year sequence of study will not be accepted as completing an approved qualification leading to general registration.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for provisional registration and registered provisional psychologists. It includes students undertaking practical placements as part of an APAC-accredited six-year sequence of study and registered as provisional psychologists.

Requirements of the 4+2 internship program

1. The core capabilities and attributes of the two-year internship program that must be achieved by the provisional psychologist are:
 - (a) knowledge of the discipline
 - (b) ethical, legal and professional matters
 - (c) psychological assessment and measurement
 - (d) intervention strategies
 - (e) research and evaluation
 - (f) communication and interpersonal relationships
 - (g) working within a cross-cultural context; and
 - (h) practice across the lifespan.
2. A provisional psychologist undertaking the Board-approved two-year internship must successfully complete the internship in accordance with the Board's internship guidelines, which include:
 - (a) a minimum two-year program based on a 35 hour week and seven hour day, totalling a minimum of 3080 hours
 - (b) a minimum of 17.5 hours per week internship
 - (c) a maximum eight-week provision for annual and personal leave per year
 - (d) one-on-one supervision with a Board-approved supervisor at a ratio of one hour of supervision to 17.5 hours of supervised practice. Two-thirds must be individual supervision, with the rest either being individual or group supervision; and
 - (e) a minimum of 60 hours of professional development per full-time year designed to meet the eight competencies of the internship program. The pro rata equivalent applies to part-time practice.

3. The program must consist of 40 per cent client contact and 60 per cent client related activities.
4. The program must be completed within a maximum of five years from commencement.
5. All work roles/placements (internship program only) must be approved by the Board prior to commencement.
6. Six monthly progress reports must be submitted by the supervisor and the provisional psychologist.
7. At the completion of the internship program a final assessment of competence form signed by the supervisor and case studies completed by the provisional psychologist must be submitted with an application for general registration.

Requirements of the 5+1 internship program

1. This standard will be updated to provide the requirements of the one-year internship program once the program becomes available.

Requirements of the APAC-accredited professional degree

1. An applicant for provisional registration must provide evidence of current enrolment in an APAC-accredited professional degree leading to general registration.
2. A provisional psychologist undertaking an APAC-accredited professional degree leading to general registration must be registered from the commencement of enrolment and for the duration of enrolment.

Failure to comply with this standard

1. A provisional psychologist who fails to meet the requirements of this standard and the associated guidelines may
 - (a) be refused renewal of provisional registration; or
 - (b) be required to undertake additional supervised practice; or
 - (c) have a condition imposed on registration; or
 - (d) be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Part 8 of the National Law or relevant legislation applying to that jurisdiction.
2. A supervisor who fails to meet the responsibilities of a Board-approved supervisor may:
 - (a) have his or her approved status revoked; or
 - (b) be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Part 8 of the National Law or relevant legislation applying to that jurisdiction.

Definitions

Client-related activities for the purposes of the internship program means activities including reading and researching to assist problem formulation and diagnosis, case consultation with colleagues, formal and informal reporting, and professional development.

Internship means a supervised practice program approved by the Board.

Client contact, for the purposes of the internship program, means direct client contact, which includes performing specific tasks of psychological assessment, intervention and prevention.

Supervisor means a registered general psychologist approved by the Board to act as principal supervisor to a provisional psychologist undertaking an internship program. A supervisor must have a minimum of three years experience as a registered general psychologist and have completed a Board-approved training program in psychology supervision prior to applying to act as a Board-approved supervisor.

References

Psychology Board of Australia Internship Program 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.

3 Area of practice endorsements

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
- (g) community psychology
- (h) health psychology; and
- (i) 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 Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)-accredited doctorate in one of the approved areas of practice, and minimum one year of approved supervised full-time equivalent practice with a Board approved supervisor; or
- (b) an APAC-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.