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Australian College of  
Applied Psychology

25 April 2018

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair of the Board  
Psychology Board of Australia  
Level 7, 111 Bourke Street  
Melbourne, VIC 3000

Dear Professor Grenyer

### **Consultation – supervisor guidelines**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Board's proposed amendments to the *Guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers*, *Policy on refusing or revoking Board-approved supervisor status*, and *Policy on the revocation of Board-approved supervisor training provider status*. As an experienced supervisor and trainer of supervisors, as well as the Chair of Psychological Science at the Australian College of Applied Psychology, a higher education provider, the arrangements for the training and management of supervisors is a key issue. The revision of the relevant Board policies and guidelines is timely in light of the publication of the revised Australian Psychology Accreditation Council standards. The proposal of the Board to revise the three existing documents into two documents focused respectively on supervisors and supervisor trainers is a helpful revision to simplify the presentation of information relevant to the respective parties. The revision to the categories of supervisors seems a parsimonious response to the evolving situation regarding supervision. Revision to the supervisor competencies to remove knowledge and understanding of the profession, a core competence for any registered psychologists, is also a helpful modification as it focuses the supervisory competencies on those which relate specifically to those required to provide effective supervision. Likewise, the current arrangements for supervisor training appears to be appropriate to the ongoing needs to the community.

In respect of the specific questions posed by the Board, I would offer the following comments:

- 1. Why option do you prefer?** The two new guidelines.
- 2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of moving from the current guidelines and revocation policies to the draft guidelines?** The advantages appear to be as outlined by the Board in its document, and there are no specific anticipated disadvantages. The optimising of alignment between APAC standards is particularly welcome. I would suggest that it would be helpful to streamline the processes for awarding supervisory status based on the registration and AOPE characteristics of applicants for Board approval so that the maximum number of supervisors are approved at the different available levels.
- 3. Are there other specific impacts that may need to be considered?** Not in addition to that already stated.
- 4. Is the content and structure of the draft guidelines helpful, clear, relevant and workable?** Yes

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5. **Is there any content that needs to be added to, deleted from, or changed in the draft guidelines?** No
6. **From your perspective, are there specific issues that are not addressed in this review that should be?** No.
7. **Do you have any other comments on the proposal?** No.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Perry'.

**Kathryn Nicholson Perry**

Professor / Chair of Discipline, Psychological Science

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