



Consultation Paper 10

June 2011

Proposed amendment to the provisional registration standard to account for the 5+1 program

Introduction

From 1 July 2010, the Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) has been responsible for the registration and regulation of psychologists under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law), as in force in each state and territory.

The National Law allows the Board to develop and recommend to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council), registration standards about relevant issues, such as:

- the eligibility of individuals for registration as a psychologist and
- the suitability of individuals to competently and safely practise the profession of psychology.

The National Law also allows the Board to develop and approve codes and guidelines to provide guidance to the practitioners it registers and about other matters relevant to the exercise of the Board's functions.

Board registration standards, codes and guidelines set out the Board's expectations of all psychologists.

The National Law requires the Board to undertake wide-ranging consultation on proposed registration standards and codes and guidelines.

The Board has consulted on a number of registration standards, codes and guidelines. Past and current consultations, including a summary of each consultation and submissions to the Ministerial Council to date, can be viewed on the Board's website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au under *News: Current Consultations*. Consultation documents are early drafts that are revised to take into account the results of consultation.

Following public consultation, the Board will review document under consultation, taking into account feedback gathered through the consultation process and the Board's primary role of protecting the public.

This consultation

This consultation paper seeks responses to proposed amendments to the Board's registration standard on provisional registration.

This standard is published on the Board's website at <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>.

This consultation paper has been issued by the Psychology Board of Australia under the authority of Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair, 7 June 2011.

Members of the profession, stakeholders and public are invited to make comment on the proposed amendments to the registration standard on provisional registration to account for the 5+1 program.

After considering the outcomes of the consultation process, the revised registration standard on provisional registration will be submitted to the Ministerial Council for consideration and approval.

Submissions

Individuals and organisations interested in commenting on this consultation paper should lodge a written submission in electronic form, marked 'Attention: Chair, 5 + 1 consultation' to psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on 29 July 2011. Submissions will be placed on the Board's website (www.psychologyboard.gov.au) unless otherwise requested by the contributor.

Overview of the consultation

In October 2009, the Board released its first consultation paper and expressed its intent to introduce a 5+1 pathway to general registration to ensure that the standards within Australia are similar to those within other overseas jurisdictions (www.psychologyboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx). Five years of university psychology training plus one year of supervised practice is the international benchmark within the European EuroPsy qualifications framework for psychology (www.efpa.eu/europsy/what-is-europsy). At the same time, the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) approved accreditation standards of the fifth year of a possible 5+1 program (<http://www.apac.psychology.org.au/Content.aspx?ID=1083>).

Section 53 of the National Law provides that a person is qualified for general registration if they hold an approved qualification. The Board has determined that the qualifications that lead to general registration are:

- a) an accredited Master's degree or
- b) a five-year accredited sequence of study, followed by a one-year, Board approved internship (5+1) or
- c) a four-year accredited 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) as listed above in this registration standard.
- e) 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.

Requirements of the 5+1 program will comprise an accredited fifth year of study leading to a Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology (or equivalent) followed by a one-year (or part-time equivalent), Board-approved supervised practice placement (internship) at sixth-year level of study.

Requirements of the 4+2 pathway are contained in the Board's registration standard on provisional registration and will not change with the introduction of the 5+1 pathway.

Overview of the 5+1 program

There are two phases of the program: a fifth year of coursework and practical placements, and a sixth year supervised internship.

Year 5

The Psychology Board of Australia recognises the current standards for the fifth year as specified in the APAC *Rules for Accreditation and Accreditation Standards for Psychology Courses* (version 10; June 2010) pages 46 – 59 (www.apac.psychology.org.au/Content.aspx?ID=1083), comprising the Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology. Higher education providers are to seek guidance from APAC in order to provide and maintain the specified standards.

The objective of the fifth year of accredited study in professional psychology is to prepare candidates for a final year of supervised practice (internship) before registration.

The course must:

- be accredited
- provide general education in the professional practice of psychology
- allow the student to obtain the basic skills needed to prepare for the following year of supervised practice
- extend the knowledge and skills of a four-year undergraduate sequence, and
- direct students to the relevant scientific empirical evidence.

Year 6

The sixth year is a supervised practice (internship) year.

The sixth year mirrors the final two years of the 4+2 supervised practice (internship) program, except the time requirements are halved. As such, further detail on the nature of the one year of the internship program may be found in the *Guidelines for 4+2 internship program: provisional psychologists and supervisors* (www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx) until a specific guideline for the sixth year internship is prepared. It is intended that there will be consultation on a draft guideline for the 5+1 internship program in the future once these standards have been approved arising from this consultation.

Similar to the 4+2 internship, work roles for the 5+1 internship program must be psychological in nature. The work must be based on direct client contact and involving the psychology-specific tasks of psychological assessment, problem formulation, diagnosis, intervention and prevention.

Provisional psychologists who complete the 5+1 program may be required to complete the Board examination before attaining general registration.

The registration standard on provisional registration: 5 + 1 program

The Psychology Board of Australia's registration standard on provisional registration was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) on 31 March 2010, pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory, and took effect from 1 July 2010. The registration standard on provisional registration includes provision for both a 4+2 and a 5+1 internship program leading to general registration. Details of the requirements of the 4+2 internship program are included, but the current standard is silent about the 5+1 internship program, stating:

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.

This consultation paper proposes to replace this section of the registration standard on provisional registration with the following wording:

Requirements of the 5+1 internship Program

1. The core capabilities and attributes of the 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. The provisional psychologist undertaking the Board-approved 5+1 internship must complete two years of study comprising
 - a) one year of an accredited fifth year of professional psychology study, plus
 - b) one year (sixth year) of a Board approved supervised practice internship.
 3. A provisional psychologist must successfully complete the sixth year supervised practice internship in accordance with the Board's guidelines, which include:
 - a) a minimum one-year program based on a 35 hour week and seven hour day, totalling a minimum of 1540 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 designed to meet the eight competencies of the internship program. The pro rata equivalent applies to part-time practice.
 4. The sixth year program must consist of 40 per cent client contact and 60 per cent client related activities.
 5. The 5+1 program must be completed within a maximum of five years from commencement.
 6. All work roles/placements in the sixth year internship must be approved by the Board (or, by the accreditation agency if the internship is accredited) prior to commencement.
 7. A six month progress report must be submitted by the supervisor and the provisional psychologist.
 8. At the completion of the sixth year internship program a final assessment of competence form signed by the supervisor must be submitted with an application for general registration.
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Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Summary

An applicant for provisional registration as a psychologist must have completed an accredited 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 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) a five-year accredited sequence of study followed by a one-year Board-approved internship (5+1); or
- b). (b) a four-year accredited 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 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 accredited professional degree

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

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.

