

Attention: Chair, Supervisor Consultation

Psychology Board of Australia – Consultation Paper 12:

I wish to submit the follow in response to consultation paper 12: Exposure Draft – Guidelines for Supervisors and Supervisor Training Providers.

1.2 National Registration:

- The board states that limited exemptions will apply, and that a limited grace period will be provided to allow supervisors to obtain training during the transition period after 30th June 2013. What has not been provided however is specific information that outlines circumstances under which these provisions will be granted?

3. Structure, length and delivery of supervisor training

- Many references are made to the fact that supervisors will require board approved training to maintain their supervisory status. An overview of the training requirements, ongoing professional development and supervision of the supervisory practice is provided. What is not provided however is specific information that will assist supervisors source training or to identify which training programs meet Board approval in each of the Australian States.
- Furthermore, the consultation paper outlines proposed expectations and a recruitment process for future training providers (Attachment B: Draft application to provide competency-based supervision training excerpt - request for quotes). Tying this back to the requirement that supervisors undergo board approved training before 30th June 2013, how can supervisors currently access training if, as yet, training providers have yet to undergo the tendering process? As an interim measure, how does the Board propose to inform and assist supervisors meet their training needs before 30th June 2013?

8. Maintaining approved supervisor status

- Supervisors are required to renew their status every 5 years and part of this renewal involves declaring the number of psychologists that they have supervised over the preceding 5 years. More specific guidelines would be useful, for example: How many supervisees are required? What is the minimum number of supervisees expected from supervisors to maintain their status, and how will this vary throughout the different categories of supervisor status?

In summary, best practice, professionalism and accountability in the psychology profession requires change and ongoing development. As such, the principles and objectives in this reform are supported. The predominate themes underlying the expressed responses provided to the consultation paper are, a) that the transition and its requirements are made transparent to members of the psychology profession, and b) that members who wish to comply with the change are given support and information to meet the necessary requirements.

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