

FEEDBACK ON 5 PLUS 1 CONSULTATION PAPER

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed 5 plus 1 guideline.

We are keen to provide feedback to these guidelines, however currently in South Australia there is no ready access to a fifth year university course and pathway.

Supervision

The declarative statement that supervision must be at least one hour per session does not acknowledge work contexts in which the supervisor and supervisee work in the same work place or agency and who may undertake a number of shorter supervision sessions that are targeted.

It is good to see that up to 10 hours of supervision can be in the form of emails and report reviews, and it would be recommended that this time be extended particularly for country staff where there is approved offsite supervision.

It is redundant to require a written agreement between the principal and secondary supervisors regarding supervision arrangements as this is already documented through the Provisional Practice Plan.

The value of other professions contributing to the knowledge and skill development of the provisional psychologist is recognised.

Offsite supervision – it is noted that operating as a sole practitioner is not permitted, and that there must be someone on site who can provide guidance and oversight of the work of the provisional psychologist. Clarification needs to be provided around consultation for “professional guidance” as it is different to psychological professional guidance.

Case studies and progress report

Will the current PPR-76 be used for the 5+1 internship progress report, or will there be a new form provided? The current PPR-76 requires the submission of two case examples, but the proposed 5 + 1 guidelines imply that these will not be expected.

The replacement of the case examples by the case studies is commended and would be expected to be within the capacity of a person in their 6th year of training towards general registration.

The recommendation that case studies are submitted across the 12 months is seen as positive in that the provisional psychologist will be studying for the exam. This spreads the workload for registration more evenly.

The word limit of 2500 maximum is seen as insufficient to be able to address the requirements and assessment criteria. Such a word limit is less than is expected in many Master level courses.

Given our current experience with issues in regard to case studies, it is recommended that more explicit guidelines are provided for the writing of case studies.

Definition of Client contact

We commend the clarity and broadening of the meaning of client contact. This better reflects the range of tasks that a psychologist performs, particularly within a non-clinical setting.

Professional Development

We are pleased that there is recognition that reading is a professional development activity, including reading for exam preparation.

If a PD activity has been discussed and attendance negotiated with the supervisor is there a need for that to be in writing other than recorded in the supervision section of the Log Book?

Log Books

To meet the requirements for this, significant administration time must be spent to enter the same information across at least three domains (that is – PsyBA Log book, client case notes, and

employer's data base). The time for log book maintenance is not allowed to count as client related activity.

An alternate form of log book would allow for hours on activities to be recorded and kept track of, eg. diary sheets, printouts from work based database.

The 5+1 guidelines imply that the full log books must be submitted to the Board. Requirements need to be reviewed and we suggest the submission of a summary rather than completed log books. Submitting log books could be up to 20 pages for a week. Would there be an alternate way of recording clients and topics covered and discussed?

The template needs to be revised to be more user friendly, ie. designed so that extended entries do not interfere with the formatting.

Clarification required of content, and responsibility for, documentation of supervisor's feedback and evaluation in Section C of the Log Book.

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NOTE: Whilst we are all employees of the Department for Education and Child Development SA, this feedback is provided to reflect our independent views only and does not represent approved agency feedback.
