



THE AUSTRALIAN
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

Submission to the Psychology Board of Australia

Revised guidelines for supervisors and
supervisor training providers

27 April 2018

Contact:

Dr Vida Bliokas, President ACPA
President@acpa.org.au

The Australian Clinical Psychology Association (ACPA) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Psychology Board of Australia's consultation process on guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers. ACPA is the leading professional organisation representing accredited clinical psychologists that meet the standards of qualification established by the Psychology Board of Australia to practice as a clinical psychologist. The objectives of ACPA concern the promotion of the highest standards of practice and the delivery of quality services to the public. Hence, ACPA is well positioned to respond to this consultation process.

It is the view of ACPA that proposed changes to the guidelines represent sensible and practical modifications.

1. Which option do you prefer – the status quo or the (two) new guidelines?

Option is 2; two new guidelines.

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of moving from the current guidelines and revocation policies to the draft guidelines?

The proposed changes will simplify the administration of the supervision categories in psychology and are likely to reduce confusion.

3. Are there other specific impacts (positive or negative) from the draft guidelines that need to be considered? This may include impacts from the proposed combining of BAS categories and the associated alignment of the eligibility criteria.

On cursory viewing, the combined BAS categories appear to reduce specifications for higher degree placement supervisors. However, the consultation paper (Point 9, p.4) describes the requirement to adhere to other Psychology Board of Australia and Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) standards and guidelines. As such, the APAC guideline for Criteria 1.7 is applicable; "placement supervisors are registered psychologists and, if supervising placements for Level 4 graduate competencies, have the relevant area of practice endorsement" (Accreditation Standards for Psychology Programs Evidence Guide, p.3). This position is strongly supported by ACPA.

4. Is the content and structure of the draft guidelines helpful, clear, relevant and workable?

Yes.

5. Is there any content that needs to be added to, deleted from, or changed in the draft guidelines?

The guidelines, in combination with other related documents, are sufficient for purpose.

6. From your perspective, are there specific issues that are not addressed in this review that should be? This may include impacts on workforce or access to health services.

Other specific issues, such as workforce and access to health services, are important in this context, however it is the view of ACPA that such issues would be more appropriately addressed in other documents.

7. Do you have any other comments on the proposal?

ACPA thanks the Psychology Board of Australia for this opportunity to comment on the guidelines, and for their vigilance of standards within the profession, for the benefit of the public.