

RE: Consultation – Revised Guidelines for Supervisors and Supervisor Training Providers - APS College of Clinical Psychology Response

The following has been prepared by the APS College of Clinical Psychologists (CCLP) in response to the public consultation on the revised guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers.

Proposed change to supervisor requirements for the higher degree placement supervisor (BAS category 9).

The CCLP strongly advises that supervisors for the higher degree placement hold Area of Practice Endorsement (AoPE) in the relevant higher degree.

Students in higher degree pathways have enrolled in specific courses that are targeted training programs for future enrolment in a registrar program for an Area of Practice Endorsement (AoPE). It is expected that students graduating from a higher degree program in a specialised area of psychology will have gained a minimum level of knowledge and skills to work with clients with presenting problems commonly treated by that specialised area of psychology. Appropriate clinical skills and knowledge vary between each AoPE and are initially gained through practicum placements under the supervision of a psychologist with that AoPE. For example, a Clinical Psychologist is unlikely to have the required knowledge to adequately supervise a student in a Clinical Neuropsychology placement. Similarly, Forensic Psychology students need supervisors with a Forensic AoPE who understand the inherent risks of working with a highly complex and risky population. Allowing any registered psychologist, regardless of training pathway, to supervise students in placements which require specific skills and knowledge is likely to put both students and the public at risk.

Further, the purpose of the registrar program is to provide an additional two years of specialised supervision to build on skills developed throughout the higher degree platform. When entering a registrar program, it is expected that registrars have already met a minimum level of clinical competency relevant to that AoPE. Many of those competencies can only be gained through the practicum placement under the supervision of a psychologist with that relevant AoPE. For example, the CCLP has significant concerns that students not supervised by a Clinical Psychologist would not have gained the minimum clinically relevant skills and competency to undertake the Clinical Registrar program.



Tamara CAVENETT
Chair



Brendan MEAGHER
Chair-elect

On behalf of the National Clinical College Committee of the Australian Psychological Society
College of Clinical Psychologists