



Psychology Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

26th April 2018

RE: Consultation – supervisor guidelines

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed revised guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers.

We are responding to this request as placement coordinators of the Master of Psychology Course (Organisational) at Deakin University. As part of this role we see first-hand the importance of high quality higher degree supervision as it relates to emerging psychology professionals. However, we have also experienced the challenges involved in implementing and maintaining a robust supervisor pipeline. Some barriers include confusion around the process and supervisor categories, high costs related to endorsement (particularly for new graduates) and a long lead time before being eligible to supervise (2 years endorsement and then another 2 years waiting period).

The ability to maintain quality standards as well as remain agile and responsive to the needs and future requirements of our organisational psychology community is critical. As such we strongly support the introduction of Option 2 (two new guidelines); particularly the simplification of the supervisor categories. Through our dealings with higher degree supervisors we can concur that supervisors have often been confused about the different categories and requirements associated with each.

We also support the proposal by the Psychology Board of Australia to now allow the matter of endorsement for higher degree placements to be addressed specifically via the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accreditation mechanism. This provides a much needed balance between needing to maintain a high focus on supervision standards (as deemed by the Psychology Board of Australia) with the need to allow for flexibility and accessibility depending on the supervision context (e.g. higher degree placements versus registrar programs).

Yours sincerely,

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