

Fact sheet for supervisors

New guidelines for supervisors

8 June 2018

Summary

On 1 August 2018 the new *Guidelines for supervisors* come in to effect, replacing the current *Guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers*. There will be separate *Guidelines for supervisor training providers*. Advance copies of both guidelines have been [published](#) to give supervisors time to familiarise themselves with the new guidelines. The main changes to be aware of relate to the merging of supervisor categories.

What is happening to the supervisor categories?

Under the current (2013) supervisor guidelines there are several supervisor approval categories corresponding to the different training pathways that supervisees can undertake to obtain general registration or endorsement. Some of these categories also have principal and secondary supervisor types. The Board is merging all categories except 'Registrar program – principal supervisor' under one overarching 'Board-approved supervisor' category.

Under the new guidelines, all Board-approved supervisors will be able to perform any of these supervisory roles, provided they continue meeting their obligations to practice within their scope of competence:

1. Internship (4+2 or 5+1) – principal or secondary supervisor
2. Higher degree placement supervisor (refer to further information below)
3. Supervisor of higher degree students working in addition to placements
4. Registrar program – secondary supervisor
5. Re-entry program supervisor (for psychologists returning to practice)
6. Transitional program supervisor (for overseas qualified psychologists)

'Registrar program – principal' will remain a separate category. These supervisors will still be required to have held endorsement in the relevant area of practice for at least two years.

If you have approval in one or more of the categories listed 1–6 above you will automatically transition to the new Board-approved supervisor category. The current pathways and supervisor types listed under your name on the Board's online searchable [List of supervisors](#) will be removed after the new guidelines take effect in August.

If you are already approved as a 'Registrar program – principal supervisor' you will retain this approval and continue to have this appear under your name on the [List of supervisors](#), along with the area/s of practice in which you hold endorsement. You will continue to be searchable on the list through the 'registrar program' and 'area of practice' filters.

The requirements of supervisors and supervisees in each of the pathways to registration or endorsement are not changing – these are detailed in separate Board [guidelines and policies](#) (e.g. *Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program*, *Guidelines on area of practice endorsements*, etc.).

The table below summarises the changes to supervisor categories and registration requirements.

Previous categories	Previous registration requirements	New categories	New registration requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4+2 internship – secondary 5+1 internship – secondary Registrar program – secondary Working in addition to higher degree placements <i>(currently any Board-approved supervisor may supervise a psychologist competing a re-entry or transitional program)</i>	Must have held general registration for at least 2 years	Board-approved supervisor	Must have held general registration for at least 3 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4+2 internship – principal 5+1 internship – principal <i>(these supervisors can also supervise higher degree placements in the 5+1 pathway)</i>	Must have held general registration for at least 3 years		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher degree placement supervisor 	Must have held endorsement in the area of practice for at least 2 years		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registrar program – principal 	Must have held endorsement in the area of practice for at least 2 years	Registrar program – principal (no change)	Must have held endorsement in the area of practice for at least 2 years (no change)

Tip: If you don't wish to be contacted by supervisees you can change your status to 'not available' at any time by logging in to the supervisor online services portal. Supervisor online services are available via the [practitioner login](#). You will need your 10-digit online user ID (different to your registration number) and password. If you don't know your ID number or password, contact the AHPRA [customer service team](#).

Further information for higher degree supervisors:

Under the current (2013) supervisor guidelines, the Board required higher degree supervisors to hold endorsement in the relevant area of practice (except for fifth year programs in the 5+1 pathway). Supervisors approved prior to July 2013 are exempt from this requirement until 31 December 2018.

The new guidelines do not set out the requirements for higher degree placement supervisors because they are set by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) in the Accreditation Standards for Psychology Programs, effective 1 January 2019.

The new accreditation standards state that programs leading to eligibility to enter the Board's registrar program require supervisors to hold the relevant area of practice endorsement (education providers must demonstrate a sound rationale if alternative arrangements are in place). Programs leading only to general registration (i.e. the fifth year in the 5+1 pathway) do not require supervisors to hold endorsement.¹ Where endorsement is required, the accreditation standards do not stipulate that this be held for two years. For further information, refer to [APAC's website](#) or contact APAC.

Higher degree providers can check a psychologist's supervisor status on the Board's [List of supervisors](#). If they want to check whether or not a supervisor has an area of practice endorsement they can either check if they have approval as a Registrar program – principal supervisor in that area of practice or review their endorsement status on the [Register of practitioners](#).

¹ Under the new accreditation standards a two-year postgraduate program can be structured as follows: one year teaching general registration competencies using non-endorsed placement supervisors and one year teaching area of practice competencies using endorsed supervisors (unless a sound rationale is provided for alternative arrangements)

Are the requirements to become a supervisor changing?

While the training requirements for new supervisors aren't changing, the registration requirements are.

Under the current (2013) guidelines psychologists can apply to be a secondary supervisor after holding general registration for two years. The new guidelines require psychologists to hold general registration² for three years before becoming a Board-approved supervisor (and automatically being granted approval to supervise any pathway except the registrar program as a principal supervisor).

The new guidelines require that a psychologist has held general registration for 2.5 years before they commence a full training program.

What if I am currently undertaking full training?

If you have held general registration for at least three years, you are not affected by the changing requirements.

If you have not yet held general registration for three years and you commenced full training before 1 August 2018 (i.e. under the 2013 guidelines), transition arrangements will apply. Note that under the 2013 guidelines you cannot commence full training until you have held registration for 1.5 years.

The transition arrangements will allow you complete the training program and apply to become a supervisor, provided you have held general registration for at least two years at the time you submit your application. Under these transition arrangements, you will be required to complete Part 3 within three months of completing Part 2, as required in the 2013 guidelines.

Are refresher training requirements changing?

No. Board-approved supervisors will still be required to complete at least one master class every five years. The Board is now approving training providers to deliver master classes using videoconference technology, making it easier for psychologists in rural and remote areas to refresh their training.

What other changes do I need to be aware of?

The Board has incorporated information from other Board documents into the new guidelines, including the policy on refusing or revoking supervisor approval and other guidance provided in its [Supervision FAQ](#) and webpages. All information about obtaining and maintaining supervisor approval is now in one, easy-to-read, document. All Board-approved supervisors should review and refer to this document.

Other changes include updates to the supervisor competencies and removing references to what training can/cannot count to continuing professional development (CPD) requirements. This means that either full training or master classes can count toward general CPD or area of practice CPD if the psychologist determines that training is relevant to an appropriate goal set out in their learning plan.

² or equivalent overseas registration/licensure