

Submission to Consultation Paper 12

Exposure Draft: Guideline for Supervisors and Supervisor Training Providers

I have supervised psychologists for many years, both for general and specialist registration, in the workplace and privately, long distance and as part of Tertiary training. I agree that tightening up of standards of supervision is necessary and probably overdue, however, the suggestions of this Paper appear to be an enormous distance from where we are now and with inadequate plans for just how we should get there.

Some of the problems I see are:

1. How will the Board ensure there are enough suitably qualified training providers to meet the needs of supervisors throughout the country by 13/6/2013?
2. Who will undertake the work of assessing training providers – surely an onerous and costly task in itself? Both the training programs and the assessment tools and procedures need to be of an exemplary standard, which would take time and resources to establish.
3. Many supervisors consider supervision for beginning psychologists to be largely a contribution to their profession and charge minimal rates. This would become much more difficult if the requirements suggested were brought in. The time involved in training is significant, the stress of assessment another concern, and the cost is never mentioned in the Paper, but would be another important factor. I wonder how many would be prepared to continue?
4. As indicated in the previous points, the plans appear to involve very significant cost. I suppose that supervisors will be expected to pay for their own training, but how will the selection of training providers, evaluation of assessment tools and quality checking be financed?

I believe that this proposal be considered as a possible goal for a date at least two years on from 13/6/2013. It is very important and should not be rushed. Parts of the whole plan, such as developing training programs and assessment tools, could have subsidiary dates for completion. Taking such time would allow for thoughtful consideration of the plan, which should be open for feedback along the way.

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