



Queensland  
Government

Metro North  
Hospital and Health Service

Department of Psychology  
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital  
Herston QLD 4029  
27 April 2018

Psychology Board of Australia  
G.P.O. Box 9958  
Melbourne, VIC 3001

Dear Psychology Board of Australia

**Re: Consultation – Revised guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers 5 March 2018**

I am writing on behalf of Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Psychology to submit consultation feedback on the proposed revised guidelines for supervisors and supervisor training providers.

RBWH Psychology is in **full support** of Option 2 – Two New Guidelines

**Benefits to Option 2 – Two New Guidelines**

**Preventing a Loss of Supervision Capacity by 2019**

At present, 37 Psychology staff across RBWH hold Psychology Board of Australia approval to supervise (BAS). Of these, 19% do not hold endorsement and will cease to be able to provide supervision by the end of this year if Option 1 is endorsed. The loss of these highly experienced approved supervisors will have a detrimental impact on our ability to continue to provide high numbers of placements for Provisional Psychologists. Instituting Option 2 will allow RBWH Psychology to continue to provide a high number of quality placements for Provisional Psychologists.

The demand for Registrar program supervision is ever-increasing and demands on endorsed BAS' time for both Registrar and Higher Degree student supervision is becoming more difficult to manage within current workloads. Retaining the status quo risks reduction in the number of Registrars who can be supervised within the RBWH, as well as reducing the number of Higher Degree student placements which can be provided. Option 2 would assist this ever-increasing bottleneck.

**Reducing Barriers for New Supervisors**

Four RBWH Psychologists have completed their Registrar programs and received endorsement over the past year. Under current guidelines, these staff will be unable to

provide supervision to Higher Degree students for two years following endorsement. This constitutes an additional barrier to providing placements within our service. Option 2 would enable these Psychologists to supervise Higher Degree students sooner, thereby enabling an increase in placements offered by RBWH.

### **Simplification/Streamlining of BAS Categories**

As per section 26 of the proposal, current guidelines separate BAS requirements for Provisional Psychologists into nine separate categories, with three different sets of minimum registration requirements for these categories. This has caused a degree of confusion within the profession. The present structure over-complicates the supervision approval process with no clear benefits.

We support the proposal to simplify existing BAS categories into the proposed two categories. We agree that supervisors for the Registrar Program require additional experience and expertise in order to provide appropriate guidance and feedback to Registrars. As such, we support the separation of requirements for supervisors of Provisional Psychologists and Registrars.

We also support the proposal to simplify the three current documents into two documents to enable Psychologists to more easily source information.

### **Retaining Current Supervisor Training Arrangements**

We support the proposal to maintain current supervisor training arrangements. Over time it is hoped that additional Masterclass providers will be accredited to increase the range of options available to supervisors.

### **Other Comment**

We hope that a change to Option 2 will also be reflected in the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council standards.

A number of non-endorsed BAS have not completed Masterclasses as they have expected to lose their approval to supervise Higher Degree students at the end of this year. Should Option 2 be implemented, we propose that the deadline to complete a masterclass be extended by six months to allow these supervisors to meet eligibility criteria to continue to supervise.

Yours sincerely,



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Clinical Educator – Psychology RBWH