

# PSYCHOLOGISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF VICTORIA

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This submission is made by the Psychologists Registration Board of Victoria ('PRBV') in relation to the Consultation Paper on "Guidelines for approved training programs in psychology supervision".

If you have any queries on these responses please contact the Chief Executive Officer: Ms Melanie Saba, 03 9629 8722 or [melanie.saba@psychreg.vic.gov.au](mailto:melanie.saba@psychreg.vic.gov.au)

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## **Trainer requirements**

The guideline specifies that all trainers must hold general registration and have at least one endorsement. However, it does not specify the level or type of experience needed as a psychologist to provide supervisor training.

It is recommended:

- 1) that trainers must have held general registration for a longer period than those providing supervision to provisional psychologists and general psychologists undertaking endorsement supervision.
- 2) that trainers have either completed a supervisor training workshop or have experience in providing supervision; and
- 3) the Psychology Board of Australia consider whether trainers require any kind of continuing professional development in supervisor training or an updating of skills on a regular basis.

## **Approval process for individuals or organisations wishing to provide supervisor training**

Although the guidelines state that the Psychology Board of Australia (PBA) will put in place an application and approval process for programs once the guidelines are established, the guidelines do not mention a process for revocation of approval by the PBA.

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It is recommended that:

- 1) the guidelines make reference to revocation of approval in the event that an individual or organisation fails to provide training in accordance with the guidelines.
- 2) any approval process established must also include a revocation of approval process and criteria by which approval may be revoked.
- 3) the PBA should also consider site visits and audits to ensure on-going compliance by providers of supervisor training.

## **Full registration**

Where references are made to “full registration” this should be replaced by “general registration” as it is not clear as to the definition of “full registration”.

## **Programs that require Board approved supervisors**

The paper notes in different sections that providers of supervision for the 4+2 program, higher degree programs and the endorsement program must be Board approved supervisors. However, it is not clear in any one section that Board approval is required for supervisors providing supervision in accredited higher degrees.

It is recommended that a bullet point be added to the “Summary of guideline” section which states that: “Any supervision provided in Board approved programs of study leading to general registration or endorsement must be provided by a Board approved supervisor.”

## **Summary of guideline – first bullet point – page 4**

The guideline states that: “*Board-approved supervisor training should equip supervisors with the necessary knowledge and skills to develop and assess the competencies required to be eligible for either full registration or an area of practice endorsement*”. The PRBV is not aware of any established competencies for the purposes of gaining an endorsement. Competencies were not included in the recent consultation on Endorsement Guidelines nor are they included in the “Area of practice endorsement registration standard”.

It is recommended that if supervisor training is proposed to equip supervisors with the necessary knowledge and skills to develop and assess the competencies required for an area of practice endorsement that competencies for endorsement are established.