



Communiqué

27 July 2018

The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law), as in force in each state and territory. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 98th meeting of the Board on 27 July 2018.

New supervisor guidelines

The Board's new *Guidelines for supervisors* and *Guidelines for supervisor training providers* took effect on 1 August 2018. Supervisors should familiarise themselves with the new [guidelines](#).

The Board has refreshed and simplified the guidelines, including reducing the number of supervisor approval categories to just 'Board-approved supervisor' and 'Registrar program principal supervisor'. Approval in the first category will allow you to supervise all Board-approved programs, including 4+2 and 5+1 internships, higher degrees, transitional programs, re-entry programs, and as a secondary supervisor for registrar programs. The new guidelines will now require all new supervisors hold general registration for three years before seeking Board-approval as a supervisor.

The Board has published a [fact sheet](#) which summarises and explains the changes and how they will impact current supervisors. Higher degree supervisors should review the [fact sheet](#) for more information on area of practice endorsement requirements under the new guidelines.

Supervisor expiry

Board-approved supervisors approved prior to July 2013 were given until 30 June 2018 to meet refresher training requirements by attending either a one-day master class or a two-day full training workshop.

The Board was pleased to see that most of the 2013 cohort of supervisors attended a one-day master class or two-day full training workshop and sought BAS renewal in time, with 2,890 supervisors being removed from the [list of approved supervisors](#) (28% of all supervisors).

The Board had anticipated that many of the 2013 cohort of supervisors would not renew their BAS status after a 2016 [survey](#) revealed that two-thirds of Board-approved supervisors were not currently supervising someone in an internship, higher degree or registrar program. The higher than expected renewal rate shows many experienced psychologists are engaged in strengthening the profession through the effective supervision of new and developing psychologists. In addition, the number of psychologists becoming a Board-approved supervisor is growing at a faster rate than the number of psychologists entering the profession (5.5% versus 4.3%).

Application period now open to act as a Board-approved supervisor training provider from 2019 to 2023

Board-approved supervisor training providers deliver competency-based supervisor training programs to psychologists in Australia within the context of the regulation of the profession in the public interest.

The Board is [currently inviting applications](#) from organisations, groups and individuals to act as a Board-approved supervisor training provider for the next five-year approval period, from 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2023.

The application period is open for six weeks and closes on 10 August 2018 at 5:00PM AEST.

Applicants can view the *Application guide*, selection criteria and supporting documents via the Board's [Supervisor training EOJ](#) web page. Applicants are also encouraged to view the advance copies of the new [Guidelines for supervisor training providers](#) and the [Guidelines for supervisors](#) for information about the Board's supervisor training requirements. Further details about Board-approved supervisor training can be found on the [Supervisor training](#) page of the Board's website.

Applicants must register on the [AHPRA eProcure portal](#) to submit an online application. The Board recommends that interested organisations, groups and individuals register on the eProcure portal and start their application as early as possible.

The new national psychology examination curriculum came into effect on 1 August 2018

The new curriculum for the national psychology examination came into effect on 1 August 2018.

The first national psychology exam that is based on the new requirements is the August sitting of the exam (3-24 August 2018). Any candidate who sits the exam in August or later will be assessed on the new curriculum.

The Board released an advance copy of the new national psychology examination curriculum in January 2018, allowing a six-month transition for exam candidates and their supervisors to become familiar with the new requirements.

The new curriculum follows a two year review by the Board, which included a public consultation between 7 July and 1 September 2017. The Board wanted to ensure that the curriculum aligned with the changes in the profession since 2012 and continued to meet international standards. These changes include the new [Australian Psychology Accreditation Council \(APAC\)](#) standards and the new [International declaration of core competencies in professional psychology](#) (the declaration).

The new curriculum and resources assist candidates to prepare for the exam are available at the national psychology examination section on the [Board's website](#).

Extension of the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Exam

The [Guidelines for the national psychology exam](#) (the guidelines) states that graduates who apply for general registration with a Board-approved postgraduate qualification accredited as a fifth and sixth year of study in psychology before 1 July 2019 are exempt from passing the national psychology exam.

The Board has extended its exemption from completing the exam for graduates who complete the higher degree pathway and apply for general registration until 31 December 2019.

Over the next twelve months, the Board will undertake a scheduled review of the guidelines. As part of the review and consultation process, the Board will complete a thorough evaluation of the higher degree exemption.

By extending the exemption until 31 December 2019, the Board intends to provide clarity and fairness to stakeholders during the upcoming review and consultation process, and to alleviate uncertainty for mid-year graduates about Board requirements.

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for psychologists on its website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au. For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Scheme also refer to information published on www.ahpra.gov.au or send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

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Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
2 August 2018