



## Registration standard: Provisional registration

Effective from: Date Month

**Remove highlighted sections from registration standard effective on 1 January 2029**

**Commented [A1]:** To be updated if proposal is approved.

**Commented [A2]:** Sections in green highlight have been previously approved by Ministerial Council and concern the [retirement of the 4+2 internship program](#). These changes are effective on 1 January 2029 on the completion of the 4+2 retirement transition period. They are therefore not the subject of this consultation but are noted here for completeness and clarity.

### Summary

This registration standard sets out the Psychology Board of Australia's (the Board) requirements for provisional registration for psychology.

Provisional registration may be granted to enable an individual to complete a period of supervised practice that the individual requires to be eligible for general registration as a psychologist.

### Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all applicants for provisional registration and applicants for renewal of provisional registration.

### Qualification

The minimum qualification necessary to be qualified to apply for provisional registration is a four-year accredited sequence of study in psychology completed in the last ten years, or a sequence of study that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to an approved qualification.

### Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements, in addition to being qualified to apply for provisional registration:

- a. the individual must be a suitable person to hold provisional registration as a psychologist under the Health Practitioner National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)
- b. the individual must not be disqualified under the National Law or the law of a co-regulatory jurisdiction from applying for registration, or being registered in the psychology profession
- c. the individual must meet all other requirements stated in an approved registration standard for the psychology profession that apply to provisional registration<sup>1</sup>, and
- d. the individual needs provisional registration in order to complete one of the following programs of supervised practice:

<sup>1</sup> Refer to section 38(1)(a)-(e) of the National Law and the Psychology Board of Australia's registration standards at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Registration-Standards](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Registration-Standards).

- i. enrolment in a Board-approved qualification<sup>2</sup> accredited as a fifth and sixth, or fifth to seventh year of study, or
- ii. a Board-approved 5+1 internship program – comprising a Board-approved qualification accredited as a fifth year of study, followed by a Board-approved internship in accordance with the requirements of a Board-approved 5+1 internship program plan<sup>3</sup>, or
- iii. a Board-approved 4+2 internship program in accordance with the requirements of a Board approved 4+2 internship plan<sup>4</sup>, or
- iv. a Board-approved transitional program as specified by the Board<sup>5</sup>.

A provisional psychologist is not allowed to undertake dual pathways; that is, mixing components of two different pathways to make up a six-year sequence of study. In addition, further training will not be accepted as having completed the requirements of an approved pathway leading to general registration.

### Maintaining provisional registration

Provisional registration must be maintained for the entire duration of the supervised practice program. This is applicable for all pathways, including while awaiting the outcome of an application for general registration.

Higher degree candidates must maintain provisional registration from the start of enrolment and for the duration of enrolment in any component of an accredited qualification. This includes coursework, practical and research thesis, unless granted general registration before completion of the doctoral thesis.

Provisional registration must be renewed annually. When renewing registration, provisional psychologists need to declare that they are completing a program of study or supervised practice that requires provisional registration.

### Definitions

**4+2 internship program** means a supervised practice program that is undertaken in accordance with a 4+2 internship plan approved by the Board, over a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years, during which the core competencies are developed.

**4+2 internship plan** means a supervised practice plan on a form approved by the Board that details how the core competencies will be achieved and includes the following components:

- 3000 hours of internship including:
  - 2720 hours of supervised psychological practice in a work role approved by the Board consisting of sufficient opportunity to develop the core competencies
  - 1000 hours of direct client contact
  - 160 hours of psychological supervision with a Board-approved supervisor where at least one hour of supervision is received for every 17 hours of psychological practice, and
  - 120 hours of professional development activities.
- completion of case reports that demonstrate satisfactory development and attainment of the core competencies, and
- submission of six-monthly supervisor reports on progress towards achievement of the core competencies.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the Psychology Board of Australia's *List of approved programs of study* at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Accreditation).

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the Psychology Board of Australia *Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program*

<sup>4</sup> Refer to the Psychology Board of Australia *Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program*

<sup>5</sup> Refer to the *Guidelines for transitional programs* for overseas-qualified applicants and the *Policy for recency of practice requirements* for re-entry to practice applicants.

Guidelines and policies are available at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Codes-Guidelines-Policies.aspx](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Codes-Guidelines-Policies.aspx).

**5+1 internship program** means a supervised practice program comprising an accredited fifth year qualification followed by an internship undertaken in accordance with a 5+1 internship plan approved by the Board. ~~The program requirements are outlined in the Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program. The full program of both the qualification and the internship is carried out over a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years, during which the practitioner's core competencies are developed.~~

**Commented [A3]:** Minor edit to improve clarity and remove unnecessary detail.

**5+1 internship plan** means a supervised practice plan, on a form approved by the Board that details how the core competencies will be achieved in [accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program](#) ~~the internship and includes the following components:~~

- 1500 hours of internship including:
  - 1360 hours of supervised psychological practice in a work role approved by the Board consisting of sufficient opportunity to develop the core competencies
  - 500 hours of direct client contact
  - 80 hours of psychological supervision with a Board-approved supervisor where at least one hour of supervision is received for every 17 hours of psychological practice, and
  - 60 hours of professional development activities.
- completion of case reports that demonstrate satisfactory development and attainment of the core competencies, and
- submission of six-monthly supervisor report/s on progress towards achievement of the core competencies.

**Commented [A4]:** The 5+1 internship program is outlined in the [Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program](#) and is currently being reviewed. Recommend removing this section to streamline policy review process and remove unnecessary detail from a Standard.

**Accredited sequence of study** means a program of study including one or more qualifications that have been assessed by the accreditation authority for the profession as meeting the requirements of the accreditation standards developed and approved under Part 6 of the National Law, and subsequently approved by the Board as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration in the psychology profession.

**Approved qualification** means a qualification obtained by completing an approved program of study which appears on the Board's *List of approved programs*.

**Board** means the Psychology Board of Australia established under section 31 of the National Law.

~~**Core competency** means the range of applied knowledge and skills common to all areas of psychology practice that are necessary for entry-level general registration. There are eight core competencies that must be achieved in the supervised practice component of psychology training which are:~~

- ~~1. knowledge of the discipline~~
- ~~2. ethical, legal and professional matters~~
- ~~3. psychological assessment and measurement~~
- ~~4. intervention strategies~~
- ~~5. research and evaluation~~
- ~~6. communication and interpersonal relationships~~
- ~~7. working with people from diverse groups~~
- ~~8. practice across the lifespan~~

**National Law** means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory in Australia.

**Provisional psychologist** means an individual registered as a provisional psychologist under section 62 of the National Law.

**Transitional program** means a period of supervised practice stipulated by the Board and any other requirements in order to meet the general registration standard.

## Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 22 November 2016.

**Commented [A5]:** Remove this section. Core competencies do not need to be defined here as:  
-they are not mentioned in the body of this Standard, so they do not need to be defined in the definition section  
-they are defined in other documents (e.g. Board's Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program, Guidelines for the National Psychology Exam)  
- The competencies are being reviewed and may change  
-This consultation paper suggests creating a single document that lists all the competencies in one place in the *Draft professional competencies for psychologists*.

**Commented [A6]:** To be updated if proposal is approved.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide ranging consultation.

#### Review

This registration standard will be reviewed at least every three years.

Next review date: Date year

Last reviewed: Date year

This standard is effective from date and replaces the previously published registration standard dated 1 June 2017.

**Commented [A7]:** To be updated if proposal is approved.