

Registration standard (DRAFT)

Recency of practice

Effective from: xxxxxx

This registration standard sets out the Psychology Board of Australia's (the Board) minimum requirements for recency of practice for psychologists.

Does this standard apply to me?

You must meet this standard if you are applying:

- for registration or renewal of your registration
- to change your registration type
- for an endorsement
- for provisional registration or renewal of your provisional registration (*unless identified below*)

You don't need to meet this standard if you are:

- applying for or renewing non-practising registration, or
- approved to enrol or are enrolled by a higher education provider in an accredited program of study that requires provisional registration.

What must I do?

To meet this standard you must complete a minimum of:

- 450 hours of practice in the previous three years, or
- 150 hours of practice in the previous 12 months.

This standard sets minimum requirements to maintain recency of practice. Meeting these requirements doesn't automatically satisfy your professional and ethical responsibilities to ensure that you:

- recognise and work within the limits of your competence and scope of practice, and
- maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

Maintaining a high level of professional competence and conduct is essential for good care. Good practice includes ensuring that, when moving to a new area of practice, you have sufficient training and/or qualifications to achieve competency in that new area.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard. However, the minimum requirements allow you to take breaks from practice.

The 'How can I continue or return to practice if I don't meet this standard?' section below explains what you need to do if you don't meet this standard.

What does this mean for me?

When you first apply for registration

When you apply for registration as a psychologist, you must meet this standard. This includes practitioners who are applying for new or additional types of registration, such as those applying to change from non-practising to general registration.

At renewal of registration

When you renew your registration, you must meet this standard. You will be asked to declare whether you have complied with this standard.

During the registration period

Your compliance with this standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the Board receives a notification (complaint) about you.

Evidence

You must keep records as evidence that you meet the requirements of this standard for five years.

The Board may withdraw your registration if it reasonably believes that you or someone else gave false or misleading information about your compliance with this standard (section 85A of the National Law).

How can I continue or return to practice if I don't meet this standard?

If you want to continue to practise, or return to practice, and you don't meet this standard, the Board will ask you to provide information to help it decide whether you are able to continue or return to practice.

The Board will consider your application to register or renew your registration, and any accompanying documentation, on an individual basis. It will take a number of factors into consideration when deciding whether or not to grant your application for registration or renewal of registration.

The Board will consider your practice history and what you have done to maintain your knowledge and skills to enable you to practise safely and effectively. At the time of application, you should provide information to help the Board make a decision about your application for registration. This may include:

- your registration and practice history, including:
 - your length of time away from practice, and
 - the nature and scope of practice prior to your break from practice
- any continuing professional development (CPD) or education completed, or professional contact maintained during your break from practice
- your intended scope of practice, including
 - the role and position proposed
 - the level of risk associated with your proposed practice
 - any CPD or education proposed in relation to the role, and
 - access to supervision, if necessary.

The Board may require you to provide additional information about these factors.

After considering all the relevant information, the Board may require you to complete:

- further specific education or training, and/or
- a period of mentoring/supervised practice, and/or
- an assessment or examination to assess your competence to practise where available, and/or
- any other requirement the Board considers necessary to protect the public.

Other possible consequences

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this standard, including that the Board can impose conditions on your registration, or refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82, 83 and 112 of the National Law).

Registration standards, policies, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings as evidence of what constitutes appropriate professional practice or conduct for your profession (section 41 of the National Law).

Authority

This standard was approved by the Ministerial Council on xxxxxx.

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

Further information

Please refer to our website for more information about how to meet this standard.

Definitions

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice in this context is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge (working) in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on the safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Provisional psychologist means a person who holds provisional registration as a psychologist under section 62 of the National Law.

Recency of practice means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

Scope of practice means the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is educated and competent to perform.

Review

This standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

Last reviewed: xxxxxx.

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated xxxxxx.