



PROPOSED STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION OF PSYCHOLOGY COURSES

NOW RELEASED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

For health professions registered under the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) accreditation of programs and the development of program accreditation standards is undertaken by an approved accreditation council for the profession, in this case APAC.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CURRENT REVIEW

The overall goal of the APAC Standards Review is to replace the current APAC accreditation standards with new accreditation standards which:

- meet the requirements for review of program accreditation standards by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency; and
- take account of relevant regulatory changes in the education sector (e.g. Australian Qualifications Framework, the Higher Education Standards Framework (2015), other health professions' accreditation standards, and the threshold learning and teaching academic standards for health, medicine and veterinary science).

The development of the accreditation standards was conducted in line with the goals of the project, and in particular noted:

- The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009) as in force in the states and territories (*the National Law*) as it relates to accreditation functions and the requirement to facilitate high quality education and training and protection of the public
- The *Procedures for the Development of Accreditation Standards* as developed by AHPRA
- The Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function, the principal reference document for national boards to assess the work of accreditation authorities
- The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Principles for Best Practice Regulation.

3. INNOVATIONS

Since 2012 a number of other health and care sector accreditation standards have been approved both in Australia and overseas that have public safety at their core, and this aligns with the National Law's objective of protecting the public. The first domain in our new standards relates

to this objective.

In addition, at the request of the Psychology Board of Australia, the new Standards will for the first time cover Program of Study requirements for Area of Practice competencies.

In keeping with contemporary practice, our focus in assessing standards will move from an inputs-based approach to an outcomes-based approach: we hope this change will allow for more flexibility in the ways providers may choose to structure programs, and allow for innovative approaches to learning and teaching.

4. THE PROCESS FROM HERE

The public consultation period will be until July 15 2016.

APAC will consider all submissions and incorporate changes as appropriate. Further consultation may take place if significant changes are being considered.

Please see [this website](#) for further information.

We welcome your submissions to this important review.