



APAC and PsyBA joint statement

12th May 2020

Joint statement from the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) and the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA).

APAC and the PsyBA have received a number of questions from education providers regarding the changes that need to be made to programs of study in response to the challenges presented by COVID-19.

We would like to take this opportunity to set out our shared position on this.

Both APAC and the PsyBA recognise higher education providers as the experts in developing and delivering curriculum and assessments to determine whether students have achieved the required learning outcomes and professional competencies of their programs.

The [Accreditation Standards for Psychology Programs](#) (the Standards) were deliberately designed to offer all higher education providers significant flexibility in how to structure their programs.

The [Evidence Guide](#) includes indicative advice of what might normally be expected of an accredited program, but we recognise there can be many ways that an accredited program enables students to achieve the relevant professional competencies.

Consequently, APAC does not issue detailed guidance about how higher education providers must meet the Standards, but rather it is the responsibility of an education provider to demonstrate that their program allows the relevant outcomes to be achieved. It is similarly the responsibility of APAC and its assessment teams to acknowledge the different means by which these outcomes may be reached.

We recognise this represents a significant shift from the previous, input driven Accreditation Standards. However, we believe that our current regulatory approach allows higher education providers the opportunity to be innovative and flexible in the way they deliver programs, and to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, without introducing undue regulatory burden.

We encourage all higher education providers to consider the [National principles for clinical education during COVID-19](#) which were developed to guide decisions of professions, Accreditation Authorities, education providers and health services about student clinical education during the COVID-19 pandemic response.

We are committed to continuing our engagement with higher education providers during the COVID-19 pandemic and working with you to ensure the quality of student outcomes into the future.

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