



**APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report**

<b>Higher Education Provider</b>	<b>The Cairnmillar Institute, Camberwell campus</b>
<b>Date of determination</b>	<b>5 December 2016 &amp; 13 February 2017</b>
<b>Standards version</b>	<b>June 2010 ver 10; Rules Mar 2014 incorporating amendments as at May 30 2016</b>
<b>Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> year:</b> Graduate Diploma of Psychology  <b>5<sup>th</sup> year:</b> Master of Professional Psychology  <b>5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years:</b> Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)  <b>Professional Doctorate:</b> Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) – under development

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy at the Cairnmillar Institute and its programs of study. This summary highlights selected key features of the assessment. Comprehensive analysis of the assessment is contained in the full APAC Assessment Team report.

The accreditation assessment site visit to Cairnmillar Institute occurred over two days with a later follow-up visit to the Mingary Clinic. The team also visited the Clinic at HighPoint, Maribyrnong. The assessors inspected the facilities at Camberwell, including the small library. A test library is also available at the Camberwell campus, and small ones at Highpoint Clinic and Mingary Clinic which are for the use of the postgraduate students.

The School of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy is the AOU for the Cairnmillar Institute. Since the last APAC assessment in 2011, there has been a number of staffing changes, both in numbers and in roles. The School has maintained an identifiable core of psychologists with a newly appointed recognised psychologist as Head of the School. The Psychology AOU conducts a range of research in mainly clinical and also some organisational and educational areas of psychological inquiry. Several staff interviewed commented that most research in the last few years has been conducted by very few staff, of whom several had now left. The new Head of the AOU and new CEO are aware of this shortcoming and are developing plans to encourage more staff to engage in research in psychology. Standard 2.1.3 is deemed not met as there has been a history of an

inadequately balanced psychology research profile by the AOU. This will be inquired about again in 12 months to ensure that the current situation has been managed in a way that the existing staff are able to report that they have time and other resources to do their research and are achieving progress.

The AOU includes two FTE staff appointed at Level E. In the total academic staff of 14.5 FTE (27 staff members), there are four staff appointed at level C or D, thus complying with the required ratio. Only 11 staff have PhDs. This ratio (40%) does not comply with the required 80% of staff with PhDs so Standard 2.4.6 is not met.

All the other general accreditation *Standards* for the AOU, including degree nomenclature, staffing, resources and the management of the learning process, were met.

There is one stand-alone fourth year course, the Graduate Diploma of Psychology. The course structure comprises units in Professional Practice and Ethics, Research Methods, Psychological Assessment, Child and Adolescent Psychology, Evidence Based Practice and Practice Based Evidence, and the research thesis. Together the first four of these meet the requirement of Standards 4.1.4, and 4.1.5. The research project comprises 37.5% and is an individual project. Evidence was produced of a benchmarking exercise in 2015 with one external academic for all 4<sup>th</sup> year theses.

All the *Standards* for the 4<sup>th</sup> year program are met.

The postgraduate programs offered are a one year Master of Professional Psychology, a Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) and a new Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) which is under development for commencement in 2017.

The overall staffing requirements are met. The ratio of students to staff for the Master of Professional Psychology and is 11.5:1, and is 8.3:1 for the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology), the latter not meeting Standard 5.1.2.

The CVs of internal/external supervisors were provided. School staff, specifically engaged at low fraction FTE contracts, largely contribute to the supervision of the students. A course advisory committee for the Master of Professional Psychology, chaired by the Course Coordinator and comprising course staff, the representatives of external supervisors and two student representatives meets twice a year. Minutes were sighted as evidence. There is an Advisory/Liaison Committee for the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) that meets twice per year and is comprised of staff, internship supervisors, and externship supervisors/employers. Standard 5.1.4 will need to be confirmed for the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) course once the program has commenced.

The resources available to the students were inspected. The test library, psychology clinic rooms, main library and computer room facilities were visited. The core capabilities and attributes taught across the postgraduate programs were examined in detail. The AOU provides a broad suite of courses that cover each of the required capabilities (knowledge, ethics, assessment, intervention, and interpersonal skills).

All of the relevant unit outlines contain information on the nature of the assessments used to assess the competence of students across the range of required capabilities. Students are assessed using a broad range of methods, including case reports, essays, quizzes / exams, recorded role plays and testing scenarios and vivas. All units, and all capabilities, contained appropriate types of assessment for their content, and work examples were inspected.

Examples of student log books were inspected. The format employed allows for the differentiation between individual and group supervision, and clearly records the appropriate information regarding the total amount of supervision received and in what setting the supervision was delivered. Similarly, the log books provide an adequate summary of the (clinical and other) work undertaken, its length and location. However Standard 5.1.17 was deemed not met as in some instances log books contained multiple loose entries and it was recommended that the log book should be revised to enable all required aspects of the documentation to be integrated and consolidated in a single document, to facilitate tracking and auditing.

The Master of Professional Psychology is a 5<sup>th</sup> year course. It comprises an appropriate mixture of coursework and practical skills (both simulated and real-life) training and is predominantly taught by registered psychologists. The emphasis of the teaching provided is on an integrated development and application of counselling and clinical skills. Students are prepared for their subsequent practical placements and a subsequent 6th year of supervised practice using a mixture of theoretical and practical approaches. Students do not take placements in the Institute Clinic; instead a heavy reliance is placed on educational and counselling experiences within external Schools.

All the *Standards*, except 5.1.2 and 5.1.17, are met for the Master of Professional Psychology. Note that until the *Standards* align with the AQF, the Master of Professional Psychology, the nomenclature of which does not meet Standard 2.3.8, can only receive accreditation with conditions.

Cairnmillar Institute offers a Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) and plans to offer a four year Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) from 2017. There is an Advisory/Liaison Committee for the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) that meets twice per year and comprises staff, internship supervisors, and externship supervisors/employers. The composition of the Committee for the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) will be confirmed once the program has commenced.

There are two main Psychology clinics: Highpoint and Mingary. The Psychology Clinic at Highpoint is generally a well-equipped space, including consulting rooms with facilities for observation and, a reception area, a tea room and a large room currently used for group work. However, at present the Clinic does not have any video-recording facilities (Standard 5.1.5). The Clinic at Mingary is a good set-up in terms of both physical facilities and the educational experience students are getting.

The assessment team was provided with detailed documentation that demonstrated how the core capabilities and attributes are taught, assessed and monitored across the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) program and the proposed Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) program.

In addition to specialist content, attention is given to the core capabilities in Standard 5.1.12, the National Practice Standards for the Mental Health Workforce, practice management and storing and accessing psychology files and record keeping.

The first placement is preparation for placements only and includes coverage of the knowledge and skills as well as ethics required prior to undertaking placements. Students then undertake an internal placement at one of the two clinics and two external placements. Appropriate supervision is provided. There was no evidence of how the AOU assessed whether students had completed 1000 hours of supervised practical placement experience (Standard 5.3.18) and staff in the AOU were not clear whose responsibility it was to sign off the final log book. It was also unclear whether the Placement Coordinator position is adequately staffed.

All the *Standards*, except 5.1.2, 5.1.5, 5.1.17 and 5.3.18, are met for the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology). The Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) will be the subject of a further site visit in early 2017, once students have commenced.

The accreditation outcomes are summarised in the attached Accreditation Summary Checklist.



## APAC Accreditation Summary Checklist

for use with APAC Standards June 2010 Version 10

Name of Higher Education Provider: Cairnmillar Institute

Date of Site Visit: 2-3 August 2016

### Accreditation of the AOU

Rules	Rule Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Section 5 – Accreditation Status	5.1-5.6		✓	

General Accreditation Standards	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
The Psychology AOU	2.1.1-10		✓	
Multi-Campus Institutions	2.2.1-2			✓
Degree Nomenclature	2.3.1-13		✓	
Academic Staffing	2.4.1-11		✓	
Resources	2.5.1-12	✓		
Teaching and Materials: Managing the Learning Process	2.6.1-14	✓		
Special Arrangements for Offshore Teaching	2.6.15			✓

Undergraduate Fourth Year Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	4.1.1	✓		
Length	4.1.2	✓		
Program of Study Structure	4.1.3	✓		
Program of Study Content	4.1.4-7	✓		
Research Methods and Professional and Research Ethics	4.1.8	✓		
Research Project	4.1.9-15	✓		
Assessment	4.1.16-22	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	4.1.23-25	✓		

Master of Professional Psychology (5 <sup>th</sup> Year) Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3	✓		
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4	✓		
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Studies	5.1.9-11			✓
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		



Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17		✓	
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.2.1-2	✓		
Length	5.2.3	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.2.4-6	✓		
Coursework	5.2.7	✓		
Practica and Skills Training	5.2.8-18	✓		



<b>Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study – Clinical Psychology</b>	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3		✓	
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4	✓		
Resources	5.1.5-8		✓	
Credit for Previous Study	5.1.9-11	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17		✓	
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.3.3-4	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.3.5-8	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.3.11-16	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	

  

<b>Professional Doctorate Programs of Study - Clinical Psychology</b>	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3		✓	
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4		✓	
Resources	5.1.5-8		✓	
Credit for Previous Study	5.1.9-11	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		



Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17		✓	
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.4.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.4.2-5	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.4.6-11	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	

### Comments

#### **Master of Professional Psychology 5<sup>th</sup> year program of study**

Until APAC Standard 2.3.8 (June 2010) aligns with the current AQF specifications the program of study can only obtain a grade of Accreditation With Conditions.

#### **Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) Professional Doctorate program of study**

A site visit will be required once students have commenced in the program.

### Authorised:

Professor Simon Crowe

**Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council**

**Date:** 22 February 2017