



# Psychology Council of New South Wales Supervisor Approval Position Statement

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<b>Summary:</b>	This position statement sets out the Psychology Council's expectations of an approved supervisor and the criteria the Psychology Council applies when considering approval of a supervisor.		
<b>Applies to:</b>	Practitioners subject to supervision conditions following a Council or Tribunal process, supervisors, delegates of the Psychology Council of NSW and HPCA staff supporting the Council.		
<b>Of interest to:</b>	Decision makers.		
<b>Author:</b>	Psychology Council of NSW		
<b>Owner:</b>	Psychology Council of NSW		
<b>Related legislation:</b>	<i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW)</i>		
<b>Related Policy:</b>	Compliance Policy – Supervision		
<b>Related(other):</b>	Conditions Handbook – Template Conditions		

# Supervisor Approval Position Statement

## PURPOSE

This position statement sets out the Psychology Council's expectations of an approved supervisor and the criteria the Council applies when considering approval of a supervisor. It should be read in conjunction with the Council's Compliance Policy – Supervision, which sets out the obligations of a practitioner subject to supervision conditions.

## EXPECTATIONS

The *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW)* states that the protection of the health and safety of the public must be the paramount consideration when functions are being exercised under that law. Supervision is an effective mechanism for monitoring whether a practitioner is practising safely. It is also a valuable tool for assisting a practitioner to improve his/her practice to accepted standards.

The Council expects a practitioner subject to supervision conditions to ensure that his/her practice (or specified aspects of practice) is/are overseen and regularly reviewed by a supervisor approved by the Council, in accordance with the conditions on his/her registration and the Council's Compliance Policy – Supervision.

By consenting to act as a supervisor, approved supervisors agree to oversee a practitioner's practice and report to the Council in accordance with the requirements set out in the supervised practitioner's conditions and the Council's Compliance Policy – Supervision.

## WHAT INFORMATION THE SUPERVISOR RECEIVES

As part of their briefing, supervisors will receive publicly available information that is relevant to the practitioner being supervised.

Other information may be provided, depending on the constraints of confidentiality in each particular case.

## CRITERIA FOR APPROVING A SUPERVISOR

The following criteria will be taken into account when considering whether or not to approve a supervisor:

1. A supervisor should be experienced in the relevant area of practice.
2. A supervisor must hold Board-approved supervisor status as approved by the Psychology Board of Australia be a Board-approved supervisor (in accordance with the Psychology Board of Australia's guidelines).
3. A supervisor:
  - a) Should be a registered psychologist and be in active clinical practice.
  - b) Should not be the subject of current investigation, assessment, inquiry or proceedings in relation to conduct, health or performance matters.
  - c) Should not have conditions imposed on his/her registration.
  - d) Should not have been the subject of an adverse finding in previous disciplinary proceedings, regardless of whether or not his/her registration remains subject to conditions.

4. Supervisors must consent to undertaking the role of supervisor.
5. A supervisor must be willing to provide feedback to the Council, in a prescribed format (template provided by the Council) and at the frequency stipulated by the supervision requirements. The supervisor should provide sufficient information to the Council to enable the Council to determine whether the practitioner has met his/her supervision requirements.
6. A supervisor must be prepared to notify the Council of any immediate concerns in relation to the supervised practitioner's compliance with the supervision requirement, or in relation to the practitioner's conduct, performance or health, or if the supervisory relationship ceases.
7. The relationship between supervisor and supervised psychologist should be at a purely professional level:
  - a) A supervisor must not be a relative, partner or close friend of the supervised practitioner.
  - b) A supervisor must not be the practitioner's Council-approved mentor.
  - c) Consideration should be given to relationships that might impact on the supervisor's ability to supervise the practitioner. Examples of such circumstances may include:
    - Relationships where there is a close social interaction;
    - Treating relationship;
    - Power imbalance within the relationship;
    - Financial/business relationship;
    - Employment relationship.

Nominee supervisors who do not meet these criteria may not be approved.

The Council may withdraw a supervisor's approval if a supervisor ceases to meet the criteria set out above, or at any time at its discretion.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POSITION STATEMENT**

This Position Statement will be published on the Council's website, provided to practitioners when a supervision condition is imposed, and provided to nominee supervisors. It should be read in conjunction with the Council's Compliance Policy - Supervision.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Nominated Supervisor Consent Form.