
APPLICATION FOR ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE APS COLLEGE OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS



THIS APPLICATION FORM IS FOR USE BY PSYCHOLOGISTS APPLYING UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

➔ **APS MEMBER WITH COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP OTHER THAN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY WITH A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE**

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THE GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS BEFORE COMPLETING THE ATTACHED SECTIONS.

FEE SCHEDULE

Processing fee (GST inclusive) \$110

Note: This fee will be applicable to 31 May 2007

Office use only	
Application received	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Fees paid	<input type="text"/> Y <input type="text"/> N
Total received	\$ <input type="text"/>
Date banked	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
I hereby certify that the applicant meets eligibility requirements. Name <input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	

- **FOUR-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE GRADUATE WITH TWO YEARS SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE FOR REGISTRATION AS A PSYCHOLOGIST**

These guidelines have been prepared to assist applicants who wish to have their eligibility for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists assessed by the APS Medicare Team. The APS is not responsible for the allocation of Medicare provider numbers: psychologists who wish to provide specialist clinical psychology items under Medicare Australia must apply for a provider number through Medicare Australia. Psychologists who are deemed eligible for College membership will have their specialist status recorded against their Medicare provider number.

1. Who can provide specialist clinical psychology services under Medicare?

The Australian Government has determined that Medicare funded clinical psychology services can be provided by registered psychologists with a Medicare provider number, who are qualified to use the title 'clinical psychologist' as determined by membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists, or demonstrated eligibility for membership of the College.

Currently, the standard route for entry into the APS College of Clinical Psychologists is via an accredited and approved Doctorate degree program in clinical psychology, or an accredited and approved Masters degree program in clinical psychology with additional post-Masters degree clinical experience. Psychologists who do not have such degrees, but who have at least 5 years' post-registration experience working in a mental health setting (which includes at least 1000 hours of appropriate supervised experience under the auspices of a Clinical psychologist) may apply to provide specialist clinical psychology services under Medicare. Such applicants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and will need to demonstrate that their training and experience in clinical psychology is *effectively equivalent* to that obtained via the standard route for entry into the APS College of Clinical Psychologists.

2. How do I apply?

Psychologists who wish to have their eligibility for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists assessed must complete and forward an application to the APS Medicare Team.

- Please complete the following forms, and provide the supporting material requested at each point.
- Applications will be assessed in terms of their demonstration of equivalence to the training and experience in clinical psychology that are obtained within accredited and approved Masters/Doctorate degree programs in clinical psychology (and, in the case of a Masters degree, additional post-Masters clinical experience). To assist with the description of your own knowledge/skills training and clinical experience in relation to these parameters, relevant requirements of accredited and approved Masters/Doctorate programs in clinical psychology are summarised below (Section 4 of the Guidelines for Applicants).
- **Demonstration of mandatory knowledge/skills:** Applicants must demonstrate that they have acquired an appropriate level of knowledge/skills in relation to five core content areas. Responses on the form headed 'Knowledge/skills acquisition' (and associated attachments) are the primary opportunity for applicants to give evidence that their training meets the requirements described in Section 4 below.
- **Demonstration of appropriate clinical experience:** Applicants must demonstrate that they have at least five years of appropriate clinical experience in a mental health setting (see Glossary for definition) post registration. The clinical experience must include at least 1000 hours of supervised experience under the auspices of a Clinical psychologist (see Glossary). Beyond the description and verification of this experience on the form 'Clinical experience: Five years including 1000 supervised hours', applicants will need to demonstrate in an attached single typewritten page how their experience meets the requirements for clinical experience described in Section 4.

- **FOUR-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE GRADUATE WITH TWO YEARS SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE FOR REGISTRATION AS A PSYCHOLOGIST continued...**

- **Endorsement:** Applicants will also need to be endorsed as suitable for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists by two psychologists who are members of the College, or whose eligibility for College membership can be demonstrated (see 'Endorsement' form).

3. What are the possible outcomes of the application process?

After consideration by the APS Medicare Team, an applicant will receive one of five possible responses:

(i) assessed as eligible for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists, (ii) further information required before processing of the application can be completed, (iii) further knowledge/skills acquisition or clinical experience recommended, (iv) applicant required to demonstrate competencies (via submission of case studies or an oral examination), or (v) application unsuccessful.

If your application is successful, you will receive notification verifying your eligibility for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists. The outcome of the assessment will also be forwarded to Medicare Australia so this eligibility can be recorded against your Medicare provider number.

4. Clinical psychology training and experience within accredited and approved Masters/Doctorate clinical psychology programs

Applicants must demonstrate that their training and experience in clinical psychology is effectively equivalent to that provided in accredited and approved Masters/Doctorate clinical psychology programs (and additional post-Masters clinical experience). As summarised below, the relevant requirements of these programs can be divided into two substantive areas: knowledge/skills acquisition ('theory') and clinical experience ('practice'). Both areas are underpinned by the scientist-practitioner model of professional psychology, i.e., a respect for evidence and an emphasis on the skill of translating theory/research into clinical practice.

i) Knowledge/skills acquisition

Applicants must demonstrate that they have acquired knowledge/skills in clinical psychology that is a) relevant to issues across the lifespan, b) relevant across a variety of clinical settings, and c) relevant to a wide range of presenting problems. The knowledge/skills base must also encompass assessment, treatment and primary prevention of psychological problems and disorders. It is critical that a senior Clinical psychologist, using appropriate assessment tasks, has systematically assessed the acquisition of knowledge/skills.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have acquired an appropriate level of knowledge/skills in five core content areas:

- **Psychopathology (minimum 48 hrs¹):** A critical awareness of, and ability to apply clinically the major categorisation systems (DSM, ICD) and associated diagnostic criteria across the full range of mental health disorders. This knowledge and skill must be based on a systematic study of the predisposing, precipitating and maintaining factors for psychological disorders, and a critical understanding of the relevant evidence base.
- **Assessment (minimum 48 hrs):** Training in assessment must include the clinical skills of diagnosis, mental state assessment, case formulation, and treatment planning. These core areas should be underpinned by a strong emphasis on the principles and methods of psychometric and clinical assessment of mental health disorders.
- **Counselling skills (minimum 24 hrs):** Training and practice in counselling and interviewing skills. This training must include exposure to fundamental techniques such as problem-solving and generic models of the helping process.
- **Psychotherapy and other interventions (minimum 48 hrs):** An understanding of the underlying principles and techniques for the treatment, rehabilitation and primary prevention of psychological problems and disorders. Training in interventions should prioritise evidence-based approaches, and all approaches should be critiqued from the perspective of their evidence base. A significant subset of this learning must relate to psychopharmacological treatments.

¹ The APS College of Clinical Psychologists defines the theoretical component of training in terms of the number of face-to-face teaching hours devoted to a particular topic.

- **FOUR-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE GRADUATE WITH TWO YEARS SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE FOR REGISTRATION AS A PSYCHOLOGIST continued...**

- **Mental health issues (minimum 24 hrs):** A critical understanding of legal, ethical and professional issues in clinical psychology, with reference to both consumers and carers.

ii) Clinical experience

For the present purposes, clinical experience includes not only direct client management (assessment, treatment, prevention, and activities that support this work), but also the clinical roles typically taken by more experienced practitioners, namely, supervision, teaching clinical practice, managing a clinical service and consultancy.

Applicants must demonstrate that their clinical experience adequately meets the following five requirements that are emphasised in accredited and approved postgraduate clinical psychology programs:

- **Theory informs practice:** Clinical experience must be theory-driven and therefore must occur subsequent to, or be directly integrated with, the knowledge/skills acquisition component of training.
- **Treatment is driven by case formulation:** Individual case formulation must be prioritised in the general approach to clinical work: Interventions should derive from an appropriate case formulation based on a thorough assessment.
- **A broad clinical skill base:** The experience base must encompass assessment, treatment and primary prevention of psychological problems/disorders.
- **A broad range of experience:** Clinical experience must be a) relevant to issues across the lifespan, b) relevant across a variety of clinical settings, and c) relevant to a wide range of presenting problems.
- **Assessment and feedback are mandatory:** The development of clinical expertise must be systematically assessed, and feedback provided by a senior Clinical psychologist. Regular formal supervision sessions and regular observation of client sessions by the supervisor are essential to adequate assessment and feedback.

5. Terms and Conditions

1. The Australian Psychological Society Limited (APS) must comply with all relevant laws in carrying out assessments of applications.
2. Applicants should note that the provision of false or misleading information for the purpose of financial gain is a serious offence.
3. The APS will carry out assessments as soon as practicable, but cannot guarantee that applications will be assessed within any particular time frame. Complex applications will take longer to assess than applications by people who, for example, are currently members of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists.
4. An application fee is payable on each application, including reapplications. The application fee is not refundable.
5. The APS will notify applicants who are assessed as being either a member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists or eligible for membership of the College that they have been so assessed and will notify Medicare Australia of the results of the applicant's assessment.
6. Applicants must apply to Medicare Australia directly in order to obtain a Medicare provider number. The APS cannot guarantee that applicants who are assessed as being either a member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists or eligible for membership of the College will be able to obtain a Medicare provider number.
7. The APS may request further information from an applicant to support their application. Applicants should provide further information to the APS within the time frame stipulated in the request for further information. Failure to provide further information in the time frame requested may result in the applicant being assessed as not being a member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists, nor eligible for membership of the College.
8. The APS is not required to provide any reasons for its determination; however, the APS will inform applicants who are assessed as not being either a member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists or eligible for membership of the College, of further training or experience required to meet these criteria. The APS provides no guarantee that the completion of the further training or experience will ensure that a future application for assessment will be successful. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.
9. A review panel will consider appeals.

- **FOUR-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE GRADUATE WITH TWO YEARS SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE FOR REGISTRATION AS A PSYCHOLOGIST continued...**

10. If an applicant is dissatisfied with the assessment of their application they may appeal the decision as follows:
 - a. An appeal should be made in writing addressed to the Medicare Assessment Review Panel, The Australian Psychological Society, PO Box 38, Flinders Lane PO, Melbourne Vic 8009, marked 'private and confidential'.
 - b. The appeal must be made within 30 days of the date of initial determination by the APS.
 - c. Upon appeal, the applicant may submit further and additional information in support of their application to the Review Panel.
 - d. The Review Panel will conduct an assessment of the application, and any further information provided, on its merits.
 - e. A decision of the Review Panel is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.
 - f. The Review Panel is not required to provide any reasons for its determination; however, it may advise applicants of further training or experience required to meet the criteria for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists. The APS provides no guarantee that the completion of further training or experience will ensure that a future application for assessment will be successful. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.
11. Applicants assessed as not being either a member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists or eligible for membership of the College may reapply at any time. However, additional information demonstrating how the stated criteria have been met should be provided on any reapplications.
12. The APS is not responsible for any lost, damaged or incomplete application forms or applications not received.
13. Applications will not be returned to applicants. Applicants should keep a copy of their applications for their own records.
14. Applicants who are assessed as being eligible for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists do not automatically gain membership of the APS or the College. People seeking membership of the APS or the APS College of Clinical Psychologists should apply separately to the APS.

6. Privacy Statement

The APS is committed to protecting your privacy and the confidentiality and security of the personal information that you provide. The personal information provided by you will be used to:

- process your application; and
- if your application is assessed as meeting the eligibility criteria, Medicare Australia will be notified of your assessment.

The personal information provided in this application may be disclosed to the institutions, businesses or people named in your application for the purpose of verifying the information that you have provided. Organisations external to the APS that provide the APS with administrative assistance (eg a mail-house) or professional advice (e.g. lawyer) may also be provided with your personal information.

Pursuant to its contractual obligations with the Department of Health and Ageing, the APS may be required to provide access to your personal information to the Commonwealth Auditor General, the Privacy Commissioner, the Ombudsman or a delegate of the Department of Health and Ageing.

You have the right to access personal information held by the APS that relates to you, subject to the exceptions in the Privacy Act 1988, and to correct information which is incorrect. Please contact the APS with any such request.

A full copy of the APS Privacy Policy is available on the APS website at www.psychology.org.au.

- **Accredited and approved Masters/Doctorate degree programs in clinical psychology:** The Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) is the current accrediting body for all Australian university psychology courses (this activity was previously conducted by the APS). APAC comprises representatives of the Council of Psychologists Registration Boards of Australia (CPRB) and the Australian Psychological Society (APS). The highest standard of clinical psychology training in Australia is provided within postgraduate (Masters/Doctorate) clinical psychology degree programs that have been, a) accredited by APAC/APS and b) given approval as specialist clinical psychology degree programs by the APS College of Clinical Psychologists.
- **APAC/APS accredited professional psychology Masters/Doctorate degree (or equivalent overseas qualification) in a specialisation other than clinical psychology:** a Masters or Doctoral level professional psychology degree in a specialisation other than clinical psychology that has been accredited by APAC/APS. Where necessary, the equivalence of overseas qualifications will be assessed by the APS. Note that, for processing purposes, this term encompasses overseas Masters/Doctorate degrees in clinical psychology.
- **Australian Psychological Society (APS):** The APS is the largest professional association for psychologists in Australia, comprising more than 15,000 members.
- **APS College of Clinical Psychologists:** one of the member groups within the APS - the APS College of Clinical Psychologists maintains the highest standards for clinical psychology training in Australia.
- **Clinical psychologist:** in the present context, a Clinical psychologist is defined as a member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists or someone whose eligibility for College membership can be demonstrated.
- **Mental health setting:** a context where the majority of services are being provided to clients with a mental health disorder (either as a primary or secondary diagnosis). Applicants claiming private practice as a mental health setting must provide a statutory declaration indicating the hours per week of private practice work, and stating that the majority of their clients warrant a mental health disorder diagnosis.
- **Registered with specialist clinical psychologist title in Western Australia:** The Psychologists' Board of Western Australia defines specialist clinical psychologist using criteria that are consistent with the criteria used by the APS College of Clinical Psychologists. Psychologists who currently hold such specialist registration are deemed to be eligible for membership of the College.
- **Supervised experience for registration:** formal supervision by a registered psychologist to meet the requirements for registration as a psychologist.
- **Supervision from a Clinical psychologist:** supervision is typically understood as occurring in individual, face-to-face sessions with the Clinical psychologist (see definition above). However, up to 25% can be provided in a group format, and remote supervision (e.g., via telephone) may be acceptable in some cases (e.g. rural locations).
- **Under the auspices of a Clinical psychologist:** under normal circumstances, a Clinical psychologist will directly provide supervision. In some settings this may not be possible (e.g., remote locations, or mental health settings without a Clinical psychologist on staff), in which case it may be appropriate for regular supervision to be provided by an appropriately experienced mental health professional (e.g., psychiatrist, social worker with mental health qualifications and experience) with a Clinical psychologist providing secondary supervision.

PERSONAL DETAILS



Prof. Assoc. Prof. Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss

Family Name

Former name if applicable

Given Names

Date of Birth

Telephone (W) (H)

Mobile Preferred contact number: Work Home Mobile

Fax

Email Address

Mailing Address

State Postcode

REGISTRATION AS A PSYCHOLOGIST

Registration: State/Territory Registration Number

Note. All applicants must attach a certified copy of their registration certificate.

APS MEMBERSHIP

Please provide the following APS Membership details

APS Membership Number Grade

Are you a full Member an APS College?

Yes

No

Please specify which College

ACADEMIC RECORD

If you have not provided us with new qualifications please complete this section.

Attach a certified copy of transcripts for all qualifications listed below.

Name of Institution	Tertiary qualification	Date Conferred/ Completed

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS ACQUISITION

Please use this form to show that you have undertaken the mandatory knowledge/skills training in clinical psychology (as described in the Guidelines for Applicants). Where courses are not part of an accredited and approved Masters/Doctorate degree program in clinical psychology, you must attach a maximum of one page of typewritten information outlining how the training listed here meets the requirements specified in the Guidelines for Applicants.

Verification: Attach a certified copy of academic transcripts and professional development certificates for all courses/training listed below. If a transcript is not available, a statutory declaration is required to verify completion of the training activities described here.

Course content/ professional development training	Title of work/unit/ training activity	Name and address of university or training institute providing this course content/training	Attendance dates
Psychopathology – minimum 48 hours (DSM-IV / ICD-10) covering the full range of mental health disorders			
Assessment – minimum 48 hours (diagnosis, mental state assessment, case formulation, treatment planning)			
Counselling skills – minimum 24 hours			
Psychotherapy – minimum 48 hours (theory, intervention, psychopharmacology, encompassing lifespan)			
Mental health issues – minimum 24 hours (legal, ethical, professional, consumer/carer)			

If you would like to provide additional detail please attach a maximum of one page of typewritten information.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE: FIVE YEARS INCLUDING 1000 SUPERVISED HOURS

Please complete the following employment details to document at least five years of appropriate clinical experience in a mental health setting post registration. The clinical experience must include at least 1000 hours of supervised experience under the auspices of a Clinical psychologist. You must attach a single typed page that describes how the experience referred to here meets the requirements for clinical experience described in the Guidelines for Applicants.

Verification: Attach a signed letter from your place of employment and/or supervisor verifying the clinical experience

EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Employer name and address	Position held	Period of employment	Summary of duties as a clinical psychologist relevant to mental health <i>Attach position description if available</i>

ENDORSEMENT



This section is to be completed by two psychologists who are members of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists or whose eligibility for membership of the College can be demonstrated.

We, the undersigned, support _____, believing that she / he is suitable for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists. In addition, we believe he / she is a fit and proper person to be a psychologist.

ENDORSER 1

Prof. Assoc. Prof. Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss

Family Name

Given Names

Job Title

Employer

Telephone Mobile

Email Address

APS Member Number (if applicable)

Are you a Member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists? Yes No

Have you been assessed as eligible to provide specialist clinical psychology items under Medicare? Yes No

Signature _____ Date

ENDORSER 2

Prof. Assoc. Prof. Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss

Family Name

Given Names

Job Title

Employer

Telephone Mobile

Email Address

APS Member Number (if applicable)

Are you a Member of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists? Yes No

Have you been assessed as eligible to provide specialist clinical psychology items under Medicare? Yes No

Signature _____ Date

DECLARATION

I HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

All the information submitted by me in this application is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misleading statement or omission may be cause for rejection of this application. I agree that I will inform the APS if I am no longer registered as a psychologist in Australia.

Signature

Date

PAYMENT DETAILS

Please make **cheque** (in Australian dollars) payable to: The Australian Psychological Society Ltd. ABN 23 000 543 788. If paying by **credit card**, please complete the following details:

American Express Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card number

Card holder's name

Expiry date

Amount \$AUD

Card holder's signature

Date

Once you have completed this form, please return it together with attachments and Total Fees Due to:
 MEDICARE PROCESSING SECRETARY
 The Australian Psychological Society Limited.
 PO Box 38, Flinders Lane PO, MELBOURNE VIC 8009, AUSTRALIA
 Telephone enquiries: 03 8662 3300

This document becomes a Tax Invoice upon payment.
 Please keep a photocopy and maintain for your records.

CHECKLIST

Please read the following carefully.

PROCESSING IS DEPENDENT ON RECEIPT OF THE FOLLOWING COMPLETED PAGES:
(Please tick boxes)

- COVER PAGE
- PERSONAL DETAILS
- ACADEMIC RECORD
- KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS ACQUISITION
- CLINICAL EXPERIENCE: FIVE YEARS INCLUDING 1000 SUPERVISED HOURS
- ENDORSEMENT
- DECLARATION
- ANY REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS
- CERTIFIED COPY OF CURRENT REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
- CERTIFIED COPY OF ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT
- PROCESSING FEE