

# TCEO Guidelines for supporting achievement of general registration for Provisional Psychologists under the Psychology Board of Australia

## **Supporting achievement of general registration with the Psychology Board of Australia**

Townsville Catholic Education Office (TCEO) employs many guidance counsellors with a number of these staff being registered or provisional psychologists. Psychologists join TCEO with tertiary qualifications in psychology and a number commence their career with us as new graduates.

In order to achieve general registration with the Psychology Board of Australia, a six year sequence of study is required. Psychology graduates seeking employment as a guidance counsellor with TCEO complete a four year accredited sequence of study in psychology. Once offered employment, graduates in psychology apply for provisional registration and undertake a minimum number of years of supervised practice (either the 4+2 or 5+1 internship program) with experienced psychologists approved as supervisors by the Psychology Board of Australia.

TCEO has a history of employing graduate psychologists and supporting the achievement of general registration with the Psychology Board of Australia. In addition to an attractive starting salary and working conditions, beginning psychologists require a high quality program of induction, professional learning and supervision. While most complete the 4+2 internship program, provisional psychologists completing the following alternative pathway is also supported: the 5+1 internship program. To be eligible for assistance as a Provisional Registrant an application for a position must be completed.

## **The 4+2 or 5+1 Internship Supervised Practice Program**

TCEO is committed to developing and retaining a skilled and knowledgeable guidance counsellor workforce that is focused on the highest level of professional practice for schools. The program for provisional psychologists undertaking the 4+2 or 5+1 internship program is conducted over two years and focuses on the knowledge and skills required in the first years of employment in the school system. The program:

- Is designed to ensure practical, specialist support for schools
- Is delivered face-to-face or via teleconference facilities in the regional areas
- Aligns with the eight core capabilities and attributes of the Psychology Board of Australia's internship program
- Ensures the professional development component of the internship program is completed
- Emphasises self-reflection and the sharing of practice as key elements of professional growth, and
- Builds the skills and understandings needed to become a highly effective guidance counsellor

## **Expectations of provisional psychologists undertaking the 4+2 or 5+1 internship program**

### **One-to-one supervision**

Provisional psychologists completing the internship program are required to engage in one-to-one supervision with a Psychology Board of Australia approved supervisor. Supervision is conducted for a prescribed minimum period of time at a ratio of one hour of supervision to 17.5 hours of supervised practice

(two hours per week or the equivalent pro rata). This requirement is set by the Psychology Board of Australia and therefore applies to provisional psychologists employed with TCEO.

In accepting supervision provided by TCEO, provisional psychologists acknowledge that they have a relationship of mutual obligation with TCEO in addition to the Psychology Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

**TCEO expects 4+2 or 5+1 interns to:**

- Complete the period of supervised practice within the shortest manageable timeframe
- Submit required documentation to the supervisor, the Psychology Board of Australia and AHPRA in a timely manner
- It is anticipated that the provisional psychologist will transition to their principal supervisor being a TCEO employed Board-approved supervisor working within the Diocese

**National Psychology Examination**

The national psychology examination ensures a consistent professional standard of psychologists nationally. From 1 July 2014, passing the examination is required in order to gain general registration.

**Support to attend the examination**

Provisional psychologists may apply for Examination Leave to attend the time for the exam.

**Financial Support for Board-approved Supervision under the Psychology Board of Australia.**

TCEO Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Service (SWP&PS) has a history of employing graduates and providing Psychology Board of Australia (Board) approved supervision for provisional psychologists undertaking the internship program (and other pathways towards general registration). The Provisional Psychologist is supervised by a TCEO employed Board-approved supervisor working within the Diocesan schools. Experienced psychologists would provide supervision, with their engagement in the process providing a professional learning experience in itself and an opportunity to develop the next generation of psychologists.

This Guideline for supporting achievement of general registration may be reviewed at any time and with necessary amendments from the Psychology Board of Australia.

**Further information**

For further information about TCEO's support of provisional psychologists, please contact the Manager, Student Wellbeing & Pastoral Services by email on: [amccarthy@tsv.catholic.edu.au](mailto:amccarthy@tsv.catholic.edu.au).