



# SCOPES OF PRACTICE AND QUALIFICATIONS

For psychologists registered in New Zealand  
under the HPCA Act 2003

## SCOPES OF PRACTICE AND PRESCRIBED QUALIFICATIONS

1. **“Psychologist”** - A psychologist within a general scope is defined as rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, organisations or the public any psychological service involving the application of psychological knowledge, principles, methods and procedures of understanding, predicting ameliorating or influencing behaviour, affect or cognition. Such practice is undertaken within an individual’s area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

The following qualifications are prescribed for registration in the Psychologist scope of practice;

A minimum of a Masters degree in Psychology from an accredited<sup>1</sup> educational organisation, or an equivalent qualification. Eligibility for a general scope of practice requires a Board approved practicum or internship involving 1500 hours of supervised practice.

2. **“Intern Psychologist”** - An intern psychologist within a special purpose scope is defined as rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, organisations or the public any psychological service involving the application of psychological knowledge, principles, methods and procedures of understanding, predicting ameliorating or influencing behaviour, affect or cognition. Such practice is undertaken within an individual’s area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

An Intern Psychologist scope of practice may be granted to applicants:

- who have completed formal academic studies that have provided them with the foundation competencies required for safe practice in a supervised internship setting and who are enrolled in a Board-accredited post graduate diploma or doctoral course of studies.

3. **“Trainee Psychologist”** - A trainee psychologist within a special purpose scope is defined as rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, organisations or the public any psychological service involving the application of psychological knowledge, principles, methods and procedures of understanding, predicting ameliorating or influencing behaviour, affect or cognition. Such practice is undertaken within an individual’s area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

A Trainee Psychologist scope of practice may be granted to applicants:

- who have completed formal academic qualifications that have provided the foundation competencies required for safe practice in a supervised setting and who are entering board-approved supervised practice for the purpose of achieving full registration.

## VOCATIONAL SCOPES OF PRACTICE AND PRESCRIBED QUALIFICATIONS

4. **“Clinical Psychologist”** - Clinical Psychologists apply psychological knowledge and theory derived from research to the area of mental health and development, to assist children, young persons, adults and their families with emotional, mental, developmental or behavioural problems by using psychological assessment, formulation and diagnosis based on biological, social and psychological factors, and applying therapeutic interventions using a scientist-practitioner approach. Such practice is undertaken within an individual’s area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

The following qualifications have been prescribed for registration as a psychologist in the Clinical Psychologist scope of practice;

A minimum of a Masters degree in Psychology from an accredited educational organisation and an accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology, or equivalent qualification. Eligibility for a clinical psychology scope of practice shall require a Board approved practicum or internship involving 1500 hours of supervised practice.

5. **“Counselling Psychologist”** - Counselling Psychologists apply psychological knowledge and theory derived from research to the area of client empowerment and enhancement, to assist children, young persons, adults and their families with personal, social, educational, and vocational functioning by using psychological assessments and interventions, and preventative approaches that acknowledge ecological, developmental and phenomenological dimensions. Such practice is undertaken within an individual’s area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

<sup>1</sup> “Accredited” here and in subsequent references means accreditation of the educational organisation, or an educational course, by the New Zealand Psychologists Board for the purpose of registering psychologists.

The following qualifications have been prescribed for registration as a psychologist in the Counselling Psychologist scope of practice;

A minimum of a Master's degree in psychology from an accredited educational organisation and an accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling Psychology, or equivalent qualification. Eligibility for a counselling psychologist scope of practice shall require a Board approved practicum or internship involving 1500 hours of supervised practice.

6. **“Educational Psychologist”** - Educational Psychologists apply psychological knowledge and theory derived from research to the area of learning and development, to assist children, young persons, adults and their families regarding their learning, academic performance, behavioural, social and emotional development, by using psychological and educational assessments and applying interventions using systemic, ecological and developmental approaches. Such practice is undertaken within an individual's area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

The following qualifications have been prescribed for registration as a psychologist in the Educational Psychologist scope of practice;

A minimum of a Masters degree in psychology<sup>2</sup> from an accredited educational organisation and an accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Psychology, or equivalent qualification. Eligibility for an educational scope of practice shall require a Board approved practicum or internship involving 1500 hours of supervised practice.

7. **“Neuropsychologist”** - Neuropsychologists apply scientific understanding of the relationship between the brain and neuropsychological function within applied clinical contexts. This approach forms the basis for the assessment, formulation, and rehabilitation of people who have sustained brain injuries or other neurological conditions. Neuropsychologists work with people of all ages who have neurological problems such as traumatic brain injury, stroke, epilepsy, toxic and metabolic disorders, brain tumours, and neurodegenerative diseases. Such practice is undertaken within an individual's area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

The following qualifications have been prescribed for registration as a psychologist in the Neuropsychologist scope of practice;

A minimum of a Master's degree in Psychology from an accredited educational organisation and an accredited Postgraduate Diploma in neuropsychology, or equivalent qualification. Eligibility for the Neuropsychologist scope of practice shall require a Board-approved practicum or internship involving no less than 1500 hours of supervised practice.

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<sup>2</sup> A Master's degree in Education may be considered equivalent to a Master's degree in psychology where its content is sufficiently educational psychology in nature.