



Procedure For Proposing The Development Of A New Vocational Scope Of Practice

Introduction

The following principles and procedure have been established by the Psychologists Board for the development and consideration of a proposed new vocational scope of practice.

Principles:

A proposed scope of practice must clearly be required for public protection.

The proposed scope must define a clear area of practice (i.e., materially different from scopes already prescribed).

The proposed scope must be described in accordance with section 11 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003.

In accordance with sub-sections 12(2)(a)-(e) of the HPCA Act, any proposal for a new scope must include clear qualifications for entry into the scope. [Note: Registrants for any new scope must first meet all criteria for the "Psychologist" scope of practice.]

The proposed qualifications for the scope must be necessary for the protection of the public and cannot unnecessarily restrict an area of practice. [Refer s 13 of the HPCA Act.]

Proposers must show they have consulted meaningfully with interested stakeholders (especially those that may be affected by the proposed scope of practice) prior to submitting their proposal to the Board. [Refer s 14(2) of the HPCA Act.]

Procedure:

- 1) Proposers should communicate their interest in establishing a new vocational scope to the Board's Registrar early in their planning and subsequently endeavor to keep the Board informed of their progress.
- 2) The Board's Chief Executive/Registrar will consider what assistance can be provided.
- 3) Proposals must be in keeping with the principles outlined above.
- 4) The following information must be included with any proposal:
 - Proposed title for the scope. (Should be consistent with existing scopes.)
 - Proposed description of the scope.
 - Proposed qualifications for the scope.
 - The rationale for establishing the scope.
 - A summary of the consultation carried out in preparing the proposal.
 - The estimated number of practitioners likely to be eligible for the scope.
 - The proposer's name(s) and contact details.
- 5) Proposals must be submitted to the Board's Chief Executive/Registrar.
- 6) The Chief Executive/Registrar may ask for or undertake further work, or may present the proposal to the Board with or without recommendation.
- 7) The Board may ask for or undertake further development of the proposal, or may accept or decline the proposal. A written rationale will be provided for any decision to decline.
- 8) If accepted, the Board will then go through the required legal steps to operationalise the new vocational scope, including consultation with the profession and the public.