

Fact sheet for the 5+1 internship program

Mandatory notifications in a 5+1 internship

The [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law](#) (the National Law) establishes requirements for mandatory reporting. Under the National Law, certain groups must make mandatory notifications about practitioners when their health, conduct or performance poses a risk to the public.

Supervisors may be required to make a notification about their 5+1 internship supervisee, if they have concerns about their health or professional conduct.

Similarly, provisional psychologists undertaking a 5+1 internship may be required to make a notification if they have concerns about a supervisor's conduct or performance.

When should a mandatory notification be made

A mandatory notification should be made if there is a reasonable belief that a registered health practitioner is practicing or engaging:

- with an impairment and placing the public at risk of substantial harm
- while intoxicated by alcohol or drugs
- in a way that significantly departs from the [Code of conduct for psychologists](#)
- in sexual misconduct in connection with their practice.

Supervisors and provisional psychologists can consult with peers, their employer, professional associations, and/or legal practitioners to assist in determining whether to make a notification.

You should make a mandatory notification only if you believe there is risk of substantial harm. Refer to Ahpra's [Guidelines for mandatory notifications](#) including assessment flowcharts.

What is the difference between a mandatory and voluntary notification?

When the threshold for a mandatory notification is not met, a voluntary notification can be made. Grounds for a voluntary notification include:

- failure to comply with the requirements of the [Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program](#)
- failure to comply with the requirements of the [Guidelines for supervisors](#).

If the subject of the mandatory or voluntary notification is the supervisor, the Psychology Board (the Board) may review their Board-approved supervisor status.

For detailed information on mandatory notifications please refer to the [Guidelines for mandatory notifications](#) on Ahpra's website.