

Public consultation: Draft guidelines for the national psychology exam

The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) is seeking your feedback about our proposal to adopt the *Draft guidelines for the national psychology exam* (the draft exam guidelines). There are ten specific questions we would like you to address below. All questions are optional and you are welcome to respond to any that you find relevant, or that you have a view on.

Providing feedback

Please email your submission to: psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au. The submission deadline is close of business on **Monday 24 March 2025**.

Initial questions: To help us better understand your situation and the context of your feedback, please provide us with some details about you.

Question A: Are you completing this submission on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

☒ Organisation

Name of organisation: Psychology Council of NSW

Contact email: [REDACTED]

☐ Individual

Name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Name of organisation: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Contact email: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Question B: If you are completing this submission as an individual, are you:

☐ A registered health practitioner?

Profession: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

☐ A consumer / client?

☐ Other – please describe: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

☐ Prefer not to say.

Questions for consideration – Updating the Guidelines for the national psychology exam
Preferred option
Question 1: Do you support updating the exam guidelines (Option 2)? Please provide a rationale for your view.
Your answer: Yes the exam guidelines are supported, in line with updated competencies for general registration.
Question 2: Do you support including the updated general registration competencies as outlined in the Professional competencies for psychologists into the draft exam guidelines? Please provide a rationale for your view.
Your answer: Yes to fully inform candidates on the basis of what expected professional skills, knowledge and judgement is required to practise psychology competently.
Question 3: Do you support an exemption from sitting the exam for international applicants for general registration who hold a qualification that is substantially equivalent, or based on similar competencies, to a Board-approved fifth and sixth year qualification? Please provide a rationale for your view.
Your answer: Partially. Applicants from overseas should be asked to complete a modified exam i.e. the ethics section as expected knowledge in this area may differ in different cultures to Australian culture and expectations.
Content of the draft exam guidelines
Question 4: Is there any content that needs to be changed, deleted, or added into the draft exam guidelines?
Your answer: Yes. It could be clearer what action is taken when the national exam is used as part of an assessment for a registered practitioner with performance notifications (complaints) and the candidate repeatedly fails.
Question 5: Is the language and structure of the proposed draft exam guidelines helpful, clear, relevant and workable? Are there any potential unintended consequences of the current wording?
Your answer: No issue with language and structure.

Proposed implementation of the draft exam guidelines
<p>Question 6: The Board proposes to publish the draft exam guidelines when they are approved, but to have a future date for when it comes into effect (1 December 2025), to allow enough time for exam candidates to prepare. The first exam including the updated professional competencies will not be until the February 2026 sitting of the exam. Do you support this transition and implementation plan?</p>
<p>Your answer: Yes.</p>
<p>Question 7: Are there specific impacts for higher education providers, accreditation agencies, international regulators, governments, employers, psychologists, supervisors, exam candidates, clients/consumers or other stakeholders that the Board should be aware of, if the draft exam guidelines were to be approved? Please consider positive impacts and any potential negative or unintended effects in your answer.</p>
<p>Your answer: Yes. It will require all parties to update their programs, course content and education of candidates' requirements.</p>
<p>Question 8: Would the proposed changes to the draft exam guidelines result in any potential negative or unintended effects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples or other priority groups in the community? If so, please describe them.</p>
<p>Your answer: Unsure. Perhaps will require some additional support materials.</p>
<p>Question 9: Would the proposed changes to the draft exam guidelines result in any adverse cost implications for practitioners, clients/consumers or other stakeholders? If yes, please describe.</p>
<p>Your answer: Yes. Updated course content, additional education for educators and updating textbooks etc.</p>
<p>Other</p>
<p>Question 10: Do you have any other feedback or comments about the draft exam guidelines?</p>
<p>Your answer: No.</p>