

Communiqué: Community Project Reference Group

October 2025

On Tuesday 21 October 2025, the Higher Degree Redesign Community Project Reference Group (CPRG) met virtually. This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the first CPRG meeting.

Establishment of the CPRG

The Psychology Board of Australia (the PsyBA) under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) have been asked by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) to provide recommendations for a redesign of the psychology higher education pathway.

The CPRG has been established by the HD Redesign Project Steering Committee (PSC) to facilitate consultation and engagement with key community stakeholders to collaborate on progressing the HD redesign program of work.

The role of the PRGs is to:

1. Provide a forum for engagement between the Ahpra/PsyBA (Project Owner) and key stakeholders about the HD redesign project.
2. Provide the opportunity for key stakeholders/groups/members to give timely and considered feedback to the Ahpra/PsyBA (Project Owner) about the:
 - a. current psychology education training context, burden, blockers and levers for change.
 - b. development of the proposed options for redesigning the higher education pathway.
 - c. potential impacts and views about proposed options for redesign.
3. Encourage their respective stakeholders/groups/members to participate in stakeholder forums or webinars and to provide timely feedback to formal consultation papers.
4. Work collaboratively together towards developing a clear vision for redesign of the higher education pathway to becoming a registered psychologist in Australia.

Membership

The membership present at the first meeting included:

- Community Advisory Council
- Mental Health Australia
- Psychology Board of Australia

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Project Governance

The Chair of PsyBA provided an overview of governance arrangements of the HD Redesign project, including the establishing of a Project Steering Committee, the creation of a project plan and risk matrix, and terms of reference under which the PRGs will operate.

Overview of current psychology training and regulatory context

The PsyBA Chair gave an overview of the current pathways to registration for psychologists in Australia and outlined the rationale for examining how the pathways might be redesigned.

Problem definition

The CPRG Chair invited members to share their views on some of the issues the project is trying to address, including

- Equity and access to psychologists
- Equity and access for entering the psychology training pathway
- What the community needs from psychologists
- The personal and professional qualities the community expects psychologists to embody

Members provided their views in an engaging discussion which included topics such as; barriers the community face in accessing psychologists; current workforce trends that contribute to an uneven distribution of psychologists across the community; challenges and opportunities in the university sector for students wishing to undertake psychology training, and prospective members of the CPRG.

Next meeting

The CPRG will meet virtually in early 2026. The CPRG will periodically publish a Communique on the progression of its work.

The CPRG Chair invited members to consider what they would like to discuss at the next meeting.

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