

Communiqué: Professional Association Project Reference Group

November 2025

On Tuesday 18 November 2025, the Professional Association Project Reference Group convened its second meeting (online).

Attendance:

The following professional associations were represented at the meeting

- Australian Association of Psychologists Inc (AAPi)
- Australian Clinical Psychology Association (ACPA)
- Australian Clinical Neuropsychology Association (ACNpA)
- Australian Educational and Developmental Psychology Association (AEDPA)
- Australian Indigenous Psychology Association (AIPA)
- Australian Psychological Society (APS)
- Institute of Clinical Psychologists (ICP)
- Institute of Private Practicing Psychologists (IPPP)
- Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA)

Welcome and overview

The Chair welcomed members and acknowledged Country.

Workplan

The chair gave an overview of the work that had been undertaken and completed since the last PA PRG meeting, including

- The webinar series, in which four webinars aimed at different stakeholder groups were held. They were generally well attended and provided an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the project.
- The survey had been closed with over 5000 responses
- The project steering committee had met
- A jurisdictional tour with state department officials was underway
- Meetings with other project reference groups remain ongoing
- The consultant's report had been completed

The chair went through some of the preliminary findings of the survey. Some of the themes included

- A clear perception of unmet demand in the community

- There were mixed feelings about a psychology assistant workforce
- That there was positive sentiment for practical training to occur earlier in the training sequence

The chair gave an overview of the final consultant's report which included findings on

- Australia's study sequence compared with comparable international jurisdictions
- The percentage of psychology units in Australian degrees compared to other countries
- The psychology study sequence as compared to other health professions in Australia

The chair noted there would be a consultation paper released in early 2026 followed by further opportunities for stakeholders to have input on proposed pathway, and work on design principles.

Reflections from members

Members raised questions relating to:

- The degree sequence and what a potential future pathway to general registration would look like
- Implications for Area of Practice Endorsement (AoPE)
- Consultation and inputs being sought in relation to increasing equity and access.

The PRG noted that the current psychology undergraduate degree included up to 50% unaccredited non-psychology units. This was inconsistent with other health degrees and presented an opportunity to shorten the degree and/or commence practical components earlier in the training. Reducing or removing unaccredited units would not lower the thresholds students are required to meet.

The chair gave an overview of AoPE and noted that although consideration was being given as to how AoPE might be affected by the project, any review of changes to AoPE would ultimately be a separate piece of work.

Equity is promoted via the governance arrangements of the project, which include project reference groups for students, indigenous organisations, and the community. A significant proportion of the survey responses were from students, as well as people from diverse sectors of the community.

Members noted the once-in-a-generation nature of the project and expressed a desire to continue to work collaboratively with the Board.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in early 2026.