

Communiqué: Student Project Reference Group

November 2025

On Thursday 20 November 2025, the Higher Degree Redesign Student Project Reference Group (SPRG) met virtually. This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the meeting.

Establishment of the SPRG

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 SPRG has been established by the HD Redesign Project Steering Committee (PSC) to facilitate consultation and engagement with students to collaborate on progressing the HD redesign program of work.

Membership

The membership includes student representatives currently engaged in undergraduate, honours, or post graduate psychology training at a range of universities across Australia.

Project Update

The PsyBA Chair provided an update on the project and an overview of the preliminary HD Redesign survey results. Student participation in the survey was noted as high. The following themes and results were discussed;

- Survey demographics
- Views on a potential Psychology Assistant workforce
- Equity and access in psychology training
- Community access and unmet need
- Cohort specific responses in relation to the effectiveness of current pathways, views on streamlining the pathway, incorporating practical learning earlier and features to prioritise in a redesigned training pathway.

The PsyBA Chair thanked students for proactively engaging with the survey.

The PsyBA Chair provided an overview of research undertaken by external consultants which benchmarked Australian psychology training against other international programs of study. Comparisons were also made with other health professions regulated by the National Scheme. Similarities and points of difference across different models of training were discussed.

Student Voice

Members were provided with the following questions for consideration and discussion:

1. Which aspects of your psychology training/learning are the most rewarding, and which are the most challenging?
2. When thinking about how course content is delivered and structured, what matters most to you?
3. How well do you think your studies have prepared you for entering the workforce? What deficiencies are there, if any?
4. What would you change for future students?

The questions were well received and resulted in a high level of engagement. Key themes raised by members include the earlier integration of practical training, equality and access issues (particularly in relation to post graduate training), the need to integrate different cultural perspectives and access to supervised placements.

Next meeting

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