

Communiqué: Student Project Reference Group

October 2025

On Monday 13 October 2025, the Higher Degree Redesign Student Project Reference Group (SPRG) met virtually. This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the first SPRG 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.

The role of the PRG's 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 includes student representatives currently engaged in undergraduate, honours, or post graduate psychology training at a range of universities across Australia.

Project Overview

The PsyBA Chair provided an overview of the current psychology training pathway and regulatory context.

An overview of the HD Redesign Project was also provided including:

- Project purpose and objectives
- Term of Reference
- Key project timelines and milestones and
- Project governance, including the establishment of a Project Steering Committee.

The PsyBA Chair emphasised the importance of elevating the student voice in the Project and encouraged PRG members and their network to provide feedback by completing the Qualtrics Survey and attending the student Webinar on 29 October 2025.

Student Voice

Members were given the following questions for consideration and discussion:

1. How satisfied are you with your current psychology training pathway?
2. How clear are the options for becoming a registered psychologist?
3. What challenges have you faced in your training pathway?
4. How well does your current program prepare you for professional practice?

The questions were well received and resulted in a high level of engagement. Members provided preliminary feedback focused on the current state, pain points, opportunities for improvement, workforce readiness and earlier integration of practical training.

Next meeting

The PRG Chair invited members to share learnings and student perspectives to further contribute to the discovery phase at their next meeting.

The SPRG will meet virtually in November 2025. The SPRG will periodically publish a Communique on the progression of its work.