

## PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD

### NOTICE OF SCOPES OF PRACTICE AND RELATED QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD

The Psychologists Board will assume its full responsibilities under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 on 18 September 2004. This notice will take effect from that date.

#### SCOPES OF PRACTICE

Pursuant to section 11 (1) of the Act, specifies four scopes of practice as follows:

#### GENERAL SCOPES

##### **Psychologist**

A psychologist within a general scope is defined as rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, organisations or the public any psychological service involving the application of psychological knowledge, principles, methods and procedures of understanding, predicting ameliorating or influencing behaviour, affect or cognition. Such practice is undertaken within an individual's area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

##### **Trainee or Intern Psychologist**

A psychologist within a general scope is defined as rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, organisations or the public any psychological service involving the application of psychological knowledge, principles, methods and procedures of understanding, predicting ameliorating or influencing behaviour, affect or cognition. Such practice is undertaken within an individual's area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards

#### VOCATIONAL SCOPES

##### **Clinical Psychologist**

Clinical Psychologists apply psychological knowledge and theory derived from research to the area of mental health and development, to assist children, young persons, adults and their families with emotional, mental, developmental or behavioural problems by using psychological assessment, formulation and diagnosis based on biological, social and psychological factors, and applying therapeutic interventions using a scientist-practitioner approach. Such practice is undertaken within an individual's area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

##### **Educational Psychologist**

Educational Psychologists apply psychological knowledge and theory derived from research to the area of learning and development, to assist children, young persons, adults and their families regarding their learning, academic performance, behavioural, social and emotional development, by using psychological and educational assessments and applying interventions using systemic, ecological and developmental approaches. Such practice is undertaken within an individual's area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, and Board-prescribed standards.

#### QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED FOR REGISTRATION IN A SCOPE OF PRACTICE

##### **1. Psychologist**

Pursuant to section 12 of the Act, the following qualifications are prescribed for registration as a psychologist in the general scope of practice;

A minimum of a Masters degree in psychology from an accredited<sup>1</sup> educational organisation, or an equivalent qualification. Eligibility for a general scope of practice requires a Board approved practicum or internship involving 1500 hours of supervised practice.

##### **2. Intern or Trainee Psychologist**

A limited Psychology Scope of Practice may be granted to applicants:

- who have completed formal academic qualifications that have provided the trainee psychologist with the foundation competencies required for safe practice in the approved supervised setting, and
- who are entering Board approved<sup>2</sup> supervised practice for the purpose of achieving full registration.

##### **3. Clinical Psychologist**

Pursuant to section 12 of the Act, the following qualifications have been prescribed for registration as a psychologist in the clinical scope of practice;

A minimum of a Masters degree in psychology from an accredited educational organisation and an accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology, or equivalent qualification. Eligibility for a clinical psychology scope of practice shall require a Board approved practicum or internship involving 1500 hours of supervised practice.

#### 4. Educational Psychologist

Pursuant to section 12 of the Act, the following qualifications have been prescribed for registration as a psychologist in the educational scope of practice;

A minimum of a Masters degree in psychology from an accredited educational organisation and an accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Psychology, or equivalent qualification. Eligibility for an educational scope of practice shall require a Board approved practicum or internship involving 1500 hours of supervised practice.

Dated at Wellington this 20th day of August 2004  
KAREN CROSBY, Secretary, Psychologists Board

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**PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD  
AMENDMENT NOTICE OF SCOPES OF PRACTICE AND RELATED QUALIFICATIONS  
PRESCRIBED BY THE PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD**

Pursuant to Part 2, section 14 (1) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the following amendment notice is given.

#### **Notice**

**Title and commencement**—(1) This notice may be cited as the Amendment Notice of Scopes of Practice and Related Qualifications Prescribed by the Psychologists Board that came into effect on 18 September 2004\*.

(2) The amendment is the footnote numbered “3”.

(3) This notice comes into force on 24 November 2005.

#### ***Qualifications Prescribed for Registration in a Scope of Practice***

#### **4. Educational Psychologist**

Pursuant to section 12 of the Act, the following qualifications have been prescribed for registration as a psychologist in the educational scope of practice:

A minimum of a Masters degree in psychology<sup>3</sup> from an accredited educational organisation and an accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Psychology, or equivalent qualification. Eligibility for an educational scope of practice shall require a Board approved practicum or internship involving 1500 hours of supervised practice.

Dated at Wellington this 16th day of November 2005.

KAREN CROSBY, Registrar, Psychologists Board.

\*Supplement to the *New Zealand Gazette*, 15 September 2004, No. 120, page 2976

<sup>3</sup> A Masters degree in Education may be considered equivalent to a Masters degree in psychology where its content is sufficiently educational psychology in nature.