
Relationships Australia (NSW)

***Psychologist Registration Program
2009***

OVERVIEW

Relationships Australia (NSW) has offered relationship counselling, mediation and community education programs for over 50 years. Relationships Australia is Australia's leading provider of professional services to support relationships. It is a secular, non-government, non-profit community based organisation. As an organisation we are committed to enhancing the lives of communities, families and individuals by offering services of excellence in the following areas :

Regional offices provide the following services :

- ❖ Clinical Services; individual, couple and family counselling services, to assist clients to resolve issues of conflict and change, enhance or enrich their relationship
- ❖ Child, Couple and family mediation services to assist when needed during separation and divorce
- ❖ Relationship Education courses, covering different stages of life, e.g. Pre-marriage, Couple Communication, Conflict Resolution, After Separation courses, Family Safety Support Programs, and Men's relationship courses.
- ❖ Raising community awareness around family safety services, especially where there is domestic violence, or children at risk. We receive a broad range of referrals from community organisations and provide specialist services accordingly.
- ❖ Community seminars and workshops to the community. We design these presentations to meet the educational or informational needs of groups such as school, community health and medical professionals in a range of service organisations
- ❖ Services for organisations – Employment Assistance Program; workplace seminars or workplace mediation as contracted with companies or organisations.
- ❖ Professional Training. We promote and conduct professional training courses in the field of couple and family counselling, mediation and family dispute resolution through the Australian Institute for Relationship Studies.
- ❖ Professional Supervision and Consultancy. Many professionals who work in community, public, or private sector settings consult us about their couple and family work. They utilise our clinical supervision services to facilitate their own professional support, development and clinical practice.

We continue to develop services that meet the changing needs of our community, and evaluate these for ongoing improvement.

As part of Relationships Australia (NSW)'s ongoing commitment to professional education and consultation, we are once again offering a two-year Psychology Registration program, to commence in February 2009 or July 2009.

Relationships Australia (NSW) is offering two choices for Psychology Registrants :

1. **Full Registration Program.**
2. **Individual Consultation Contract.**

An outline of the Psychologist Registration program is provided below for your information.

1. FULL REGISTRATION PROGRAM

This choice is specifically tailored for new graduates who have completed their tertiary training and are currently looking for work, are working in a voluntary capacity to assist their employment prospects or have just been employed.

The Full Registration Program involves a two-year commitment to completing your psychologist registration which includes:

- ◆ consultation to plan supervision contract
- ◆ assistance in preparing paperwork to the Board of Psychologists NSW
- ◆ a minimum of 20 hours per week work placement at Relationships Australia until outside employment has been obtained
- ◆ training in client intake and assessment
- ◆ attending staff meetings, interagency meetings and Relationships Australia seminars
- ◆ weekly supervision as per supervision contract and Boards' requirement
- ◆ group supervision
- ◆ professional skill development in Individual Counselling and/or Group work
- ◆ professional skill development in Couple and Family Therapy, depending on experience
- ◆ supervised clinical experience in client service work, both individually and in a group

Opportunities will be available to work on projects / research in a variety of program areas within the organisation, depending on the knowledge and interest of successful applicants. Registrants will also be trained in a range of professional administrative skills including file-keeping, intake and maintenance of records, policy and procedural issues within the sector.

You will be supported to gain further experiences or work within the sector, in addition to your program with us. This will provide you with a broad range of experiences to complement your registration program and training undertaken over the two years.

Continuance in the program is subject to acceptance of the supervision contract by the NSW Psychologists Registration Board and regular satisfactory assessment of your progress.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Registrants will be required to submit an AIRS application form, a *curriculum vitae*, certified copies of academic qualifications and a letter outlining their interest in the program by 12 December 2008.
2. Registrants will need to have completed 4 years of tertiary education in the area of Psychology as required by the Psychologists Registration Board. It is preferable for applicants to be able to demonstrate a commitment to providing professional psychological or related services by either being currently employed in a full or part time position, providing voluntary service to an approved professional organisation or have provided voluntary service in the past twelve months.
3. Registrants will need to agree to abide by our Code of Ethics and our Code of Professional Conduct and Practice.
4. Registrants applying for the full registration program will be selected through an interview and assessment process.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

We will discuss and plan the most appropriate training course pathway with each individual registrant in order to meet their specific career goals and professional development needs. This plan will be discussed and reviewed with each registrant every 6 months throughout the program.

Depending upon individual interests and development needs, registrants have the opportunity to be trained within one of

- ◆ The Diploma of Counselling and Groupwork
- ◆ The Graduate Diploma in Couple and Family Therapy

Admission to the Graduate Diploma program requires the applicant to meet all course prerequisites and to attend the required selection interview.

Please refer to our Website: www.relationships.com.au for the entrance requirements and more detailed course descriptions or phone the Training Administrator on 8874 8090.

Progression through these courses is subject to demonstrating competent assessment for all learning outcomes, as specified for each unit of the course.

Unless substantially similar courses have been completed previously, the relevant units for most registrants to complete from the Diploma of Counselling and Groupwork would include:

☞ Counselling 1	60 hours
☞ The Self as Counsellor	20 hours

Psychology Registrants are offered a 10% discount on any Australian Institute for Relationship Studies (AIRS) course fees, as advertised.

30 hours of training in Psychological Assessments will also need to be completed during the provisional registration period. The cost of this training for Psychology Registrants in 2007 was \$528.00.

FEES

The cost for the Registration program is \$ 1,400.00 per term; there are 4 terms each year, i.e. 8 terms over the 2 years. = \$11,200. This fee is subject to review in July 2009, and any increase is applicable for the year of 2010.

This fee covers the cost of all supervision hours with primary / secondary supervisors, support toward the establishment of appropriate placements and the arrangement of organisational visits, regular progress reviews, evaluations and reports.

The cost of all professional training activities and workshops undertaken will be additional to this Registration program fee and will be paid by the Registrant directly.

2. INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION CONTRACT

Only registrants who are currently employed in either Professional non-government or government organisations are eligible. This contract primarily involves case discussion and, if negotiated, live supervision. Registrants are eligible to participate in the specialist clinical training programs offered by Relationships Australia (NSW); however, it is the registrant's responsibility to enrol and pay the required fees separately.

Some professionals choosing this option have some years experience in work with couples or families already. Your specific needs can be discussed with our program co-ordinator. This contract needs to be registered and approved by the NSW Psychologists Registration Board.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Registrants will need to demonstrate a commitment to providing professional psychological or related services by either being currently employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week, providing voluntary service to an approved professional organisation or have provided voluntary service in the past twelve months.
2. Registrants will need to be looking for and preferably be employed in either a paid or non-paid capacity within four months of beginning the contract.
3. Registrants will need to agree to abide by a code of professional conduct and practice.
4. Registrants will need to send a letter and summary curriculum vitae outlining their experience in psychological services, qualifications and reason for their request.

FEES

There is a fee per hour for the services offered within the contract. This fee will be negotiated with each applicant at the commencement of their contract.

NOTES

If you require more information please contact our Psychologist Registration Coordinator Anita Vosper on (02) 9425 4908.