

Dear Sir/Madam

**ACA Response to SIRA consultation for the provision of Relevant Services (Health and Related Services)**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the abovementioned draft guidelines

The Australian Counselling Association (ACA) is the peak professional body incorporated as a not-for-profit association. ACA is the largest single registration body for counsellors and psychotherapists in Australia with approximately 14,000 members. ACA is committed to advancing the profession of counselling and work under a Scope of Practice for Registered Counsellors which acknowledges the needs of the mental health system and responds to the needs of the consumer, their loved ones and the community.

**ACA Feedback:**

We provide feedback as a provider of prescribed Counselling services in accordance with Appendix A 4A Relevant services – the Act, s26A. Specifically, we provide feedback with relation to **Part 3: Requirements for the provision of relevant services - Registration/Accreditation requirements:** Point 20 *“To provide relevant services, the RSP must (where required) be registered or otherwise accredited to practice and deliver the services they are providing”*

It is recommended that Point 20 is updated to **include the minimum level of qualifications that RSP’s must meet** in addition to being registered and accredited to practice and deliver the services they are providing.

The table below outlines recommendations for minimum standards:

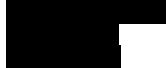
Item	Requirement	ACA Members
1	Training	Training in counselling or psychotherapy at <b>AQF Level 7 or 9</b> (Bachelors or Masters Counselling)
2	Supervised Practice	750 hours of post-qualifying client contact hours and 75 hours of clinical supervision complete over a minimum of 2 years
3	Membership	ACA Level 3 membership ACA Level 4 membership
3 1	Continuing Professional Development	25 points of Ongoing Professional Development (OPD) per year
3 2	Clinical Supervision	10 hours of clinical supervision per year
3 3	Code of Ethics	ACA Code of Ethics 2018
3 4	Insurance	Professional Indemnity Insurance

For consistency with other State Insurance Authorities in Qld, Vic and SA, the ACA recommends that a registered counsellor is a Level 3 or Level 4 member of the Australian Counselling Association to ensure minimum qualification and experience standards are achieved. It is also encouraged that other peak body associations for Counselling ensure provider eligibility meets AQF7 and AQF9.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond. If you require further information, please let me know.

Kind regards

**Jodie McKenzie**  
Deputy CEO  
Australian Counselling Association



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ACA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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