

Certified Practising registration

The PACFA Register is a register of appropriately qualified and experienced counsellors, psychotherapists and Indigenous Healing Practitioners who have demonstrated that they meet standards of professional training and ethical conduct, and have sufficient experience to deliver quality allied health therapeutic services to the public.

There are two registration categories on the PACFA Register, Certified Practising and Registered Clinical. This registration standard sets out PACFA's requirements for the Certified Practising registration of counsellors, psychotherapists and Indigenous Healing Practitioners.

Certified Practising registration may be sought by new graduates from the discipline and from those not yet eligible for Registered Clinical registration.

Certified Practising registration is granted to individuals who meet both the qualification and eligibility requirements set out in this registration standard.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all applicants for Certified Practising registration and on renewal.

Qualification requirements

To apply for Certified Practising registration an applicant must have successfully completed a qualification which meets the minimum requirements as set by the PACFA Training Standards:

1. The course must be at Bachelor degree level or above (AQF Level 7 or above) and be discipline-specific to counselling and psychotherapy or meet the requirements of the Recognition of Prior Learning framework.
2. To be considered to have successfully completed the course a graduate must have demonstrated:
 - › knowledge of the discipline and its core concepts to enable competency in practice
 - › an understanding of ethical, legal and professional matters to ensure safe practice
 - › personal attributes and interpersonal skills to work therapeutically and to establish and maintain therapeutic presence and a therapeutic relationship
 - › an appreciation and valuing of research and how it informs clinical practice
 - › a reflective and evaluative awareness that the self of the practitioner is at the heart of professional practice, and
 - › successful completion of a practicum that has proven their clinical skills in working with clients.

Eligibility requirements

In addition to holding an accepted qualification, the following eligibility requirements are to be met:

1. the applicant must provide two certified proof of identity documents as outlined in PACFA's Proof of Identity Standard
2. the applicant must provide a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (formerly National Police Check) dated no earlier than 3 months prior to the application, as outlined in PACFA's Criminal History Standard
3. the applicant must provide evidence of current professional indemnity and public liability insurance (either private or from their employer), or declare that they will purchase the PACFA Master Insurance Policy as part of their application, as outlined in PACFA's Professional Indemnity Insurance Standard
4. the applicant must commit to the annual logging of those hours of their client work that meet PACFA's definition of post training client contact as outlined in PACFA's Client Contact Standard
5. the applicant must commit to undertake PACFA's annual requirement of clinical supervision of their client work as outlined in PACFA's Clinical Supervision Standard
6. the applicant must commit to PACFA's annual requirement of continuing professional development as outlined in PACFA's Continuing Professional Development Standard
7. the applicant must commit to the standards outlined in PACFA's Code of Ethics and advise of any past or present complaints of professional misconduct as outlined in PACFA's Ethical Conduct Standard.

Application pathways

Application for Certified Practising registration is via one of four qualification pathways:

1. **Accredited training track**
Successful completion of a qualification accredited by PACFA as meeting the PACFA Training Standards
2. **General track**
Successful completion of a government-accredited training program at the level of Bachelor degree or above which has not been accredited by PACFA but that is assessed by PACFA to meet the PACFA Training Standards
3. **Overseas training track**
Successful completion of an overseas qualification that has been assessed by [VETASSESS](#) to be substantially equivalent to the PACFA Training Standards
4. **Recognition of prior learning (RPL) track**
Successful completion of cognate qualifications and a combination of other relevant training and relevant supervised practice experience which in its entirety is assessed by PACFA to meet the requirements of the PACFA Training Standards.

Maintaining registration

Registration is required to be renewed annually. When renewing their Certified Practising registration, registrants are required, in addition to payment of the required fee, to meet PACFA's renewal requirements as set out in the following standards:

- › Criminal History
- › Professional Indemnity Insurance
- › Client Contact
- › Clinical Supervision
- › Continuing Professional Development, and
- › Ethical Conduct.

Review

This registration standard will be reviewed at least every 3 years.

Next review date: March 2026

This standard is effective from March 2023.