

UNDERSTANDING PLACEMENT SUPERVISION AND CLIENT CONTACT

COUNSELLING STUDENTS

NOTE:

There are 2 levels of supervision for a counselling student - daily and clinical.

Your **Daily Supervisor** is the person you work closely with who directs your activity and supervises you on a daily basis. Your Daily Supervisor must:

1. Be in a managerial or supervisory role in the organisation
2. Have at least 3 years relevant experience in the industry
3. Not have any other relationship with you (eg family, therapist, educator etc)

At some stage of your total student placement hours, all counselling students must do 40 hours of direct client contact counselling and 10 hours of clinical supervision regarding this 40 hours.

Direct client contact is face-to-face or person-to-person counselling or psychotherapy work. This can include up to 10 hours of telephone counselling and 10 hours of counselling work with young people (under 18 years of age). Counselling or psychotherapeutic group work, psychoeducational groups and co-therapy or co facilitation of a therapy group will be counted as client contact hours as long as the student takes a lead role and is not observing the group or participating as a client in the group. Case management, counselling research, pastoral care and informal work with individuals, children and families would not be considered client contact.

Keep in mind that the PACFA definition of counselling or counselling related work requires an *explicitly contracted counselling relationship with a focus for change*.

If you are on a placement where you will be experiencing 'client contact' as defined above, you also need to have 10 hours of Clinical Supervision regarding the counselling work you are doing. Clinical Supervision can be individual or in a group of 6 or less. Clinical Supervision is very different to daily supervision and can only be provided by a suitably qualified Clinical Supervisor. You need to check if the organisation has a suitably qualified Clinical Supervisor to do this 10 hours clinical supervision with you. Don't worry if they don't. We have some other options available for you.

A qualified Clinical Supervisor must:

1. Be currently working at a management or supervisor level as a practitioner
2. Have at least 3 years post training experience in counselling or psychotherapy
3. Hold a 2 year minimum higher education qualification in counselling, psychotherapy, or a relevant degree i.e. psychology, social work (or other as approved by Placement Department).
4. Have completed a minimum 750 hours of direct, face to face counselling or psychotherapy
5. Completed 75 hours of clinical supervision post qualification
6. Not have any other relationship with you (eg family, therapist etc)

If you and your potential Clinical Supervisor are unsure if they meet these requirements, please contact your Placement Officer and they will let you know. If no Clinical Supervisor is available in that organisation, contact us and we will look at other alternatives for Clinical Supervision for you.

If you have questions or if any of the above information is not clear for you, please contact your Placement Officer or Coordinator - [Placement Contacts](#).