

PACFA Professional Training Standards 2012

The following policy changes are effective from January 2012:

- 2.1.3 Members must have completed a training course substantially focused on psychotherapy and/or counselling that extends over a minimum of two years to allow the integration of personal and clinical learning.

It is at the discretion of the training provider as to how the course integrates the academic and clinical components. Postgraduate courses which offer intensive full-time training over one academic year must include a second academic year of supervised clinical practice. Similarly for undergraduate courses which offer intensive fulltime training in less than 3 years must offer a third year of supervised clinical practice.

- 2.3.3 Suicide risk assessment and management

- 2.4.4 Members must have completed a minimum 50 hours of supervision relating to 200 hours of client contact. A minimum of 10 hours of supervision relating to 40 hours client contact hours must take place within the training program. Client contact may include direct client contact, observation and co- therapy. Observation and/or co-therapy may only comprise 50 hours of the 200 hours client contact.

- 4.2.2 Supervision Group size. Groups should not normally be larger than six participants. Although 6 participants is deemed the maximum size for optimal supervision learning, in training circumstances the first 20 hours can be conducted within a group of up to 12 members. All subsequent hours must be conducted in groups of no more than 6. In groups of more than 12 members, no hours will be counted towards supervision.

- 5.3.1 Trainers other than the course coordinator who have primary responsibility for substantial aspects of training delivery, and are designated the title of trainer rather than tutor or consultant, etc, should meet the same criteria as outlined for course coordinators (points 5.2.1 to 5.2.13 with a minimum of 5 years experience as practitioners within their field).

Appendix 1

Definitions of client, client contact, client observation, co-therapy

- 1.2 Client contact hours, first and foremost, comprise real life, person-to-person contact with the client.

Alternative contact such as telephone, online, and web technology such as Skype may be considered when considerations such as geographical distance and disability of the trainee exist. In such unavoidable circumstances the training body needs to determine the feasibility of alternative client contact measures.