



PSYCHOTHERAPISTS & COUNSELLORS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

Membership Application Information

Applications must be lodged on the current application form. Applicants are required to produce full evidence of their professional qualifications, training, clinical experience and supervision in applying for membership to all membership categories:

**Full Member:
Associate:**

**MEMBER
PROVISIONAL MEMBER
TRAINEE MEMBER**

The criteria of eligibility for each membership category are as follows:

1. Member *must have either:*

Undergraduate Equivalent

- a) Completed 400 hours formal psychotherapy or counselling training over 3 years (350 hrs training and 50 hrs supervision linked to 200 hrs of client contact), *and*
- b) 750 hours clinical experience, i.e. client contact, post-training over at least 2 years, *and*
- c) 75 hours of clinical supervision, relating to above experience, post-training^{***}, *and*
- d) 25 hours of one-to-one personal therapy.

OR

Postgraduate Equivalent

- a) Tertiary degree sufficiently related to the professions of psychotherapy and counselling* (or equivalent), *and*
- b) Completed 250 hours formal training in psychotherapy or counselling over at least 2 years** (200 hrs training plus 50 hrs supervision linked to 200 hrs client contact), *and*
- c) 750 hours clinical experience, i.e., client contact, post-training over at least 2 years, *and*
- d) 75 hours of clinical supervision, relating to above experience, post-training^{***}, *and*
- e) 25 hours of one-to-one personal therapy.

Ongoing requirements for Full Members – 10 hours supervision and 15 hours professional development every year.

2. Provisional Member *must have either:*

Undergraduate Equivalent

- a) Completed 400 hours formal psychotherapy or counselling training over 3 years (350 hrs training and 50 hrs supervision linked to 200 hrs of client contact), *and*
- b) Ongoing clinical supervision, at least monthly, if working with a caseload^{***}, *and*
- c) Ongoing professional development of 25 hours/year.

OR

Postgraduate Equivalent

- a) Tertiary degree sufficiently related to the professions of psychotherapy and counselling* (or equivalent), *and*
- b) Completed 250 hours formal training in psychotherapy or counselling over at least 2 years** (200 hrs training plus 50 hrs supervision linked to 200 hrs client contact), *and*
- c) Ongoing clinical supervision, at least monthly, if working with a caseload^{***}, *and*
- d) Ongoing professional development of 25 hours/year.

3. Trainee Member *must be:*

- a) Actively enrolled in formal training in psychotherapy or counselling^{**}, *and*
- b) Undertaking ongoing clinical supervision, at least monthly, if working with a caseload^{***}.

Note: *Applications will not be accepted without complete supporting documentation.* Applications for upgrading existing membership must be furnished on the actual upgrade form. Certificates are awarded to successful candidates in the Member and Provisional Member categories. All Membership is reviewed annually. Membership lapses if membership fees are not maintained annually and/or renewal forms are not submitted within 3 months of the due date.

Membership Application Information - Footnotes

* **Tertiary degree courses** are considered particularly relevant to the fields of psychotherapy and counselling where there is a significant proportion of course content related to psychosocial development and functioning, with a focus on interpersonal helping skills. Examples would be Psychology, Social Work or Occupational Therapy. Tertiary qualifications not generally considered as sufficiently related to psychotherapy and counselling include, for example, art or music degrees, general nursing, teaching, anthropology, sociology. Exceptions will be considered if substantial reasons are documented.

** **Formal training courses** must meet the standards set by The Psychotherapists and Counsellors Federation of Australia (PACFA). (See separate PACFA 2009 Training Guidelines). You may be requested to submit a course prospectus or other documentation to ensure these training standards are met. For PACAWA, 'Formal Training' implies significant face-to-face, experiential, practise-based contact with trainers/instructors. PACAWA does not generally see correspondence courses as meeting this requirement. At least 10 hours of supervision relating to 40 hours of client contact must be included within the formal training. (This is included in the 50 hours of supervision to be logged at this stage.)

*** **Supervision** hours are considered where there is a contractual arrangement for individual or group casework supervision with a qualified supervisor (having a minimum of 5 years clinical experience post formal training). It is expected that the duration of supervision sessions will be for no less than one hour. For Membership, small group supervision may not comprise more than 50% of the required supervision hours.

The claimed supervision time would need to relate to feedback and discussion of the applicant's work *a significant proportion of the time*, but not necessarily be exclusive to the applicant's client work - as occurs in small group supervision. The 50 hours supervision during training must be *additional* to the hours of coursework as required within the Formal Training criterion. It is not possible to count supervised training hours as both coursework and supervision for the purposes of membership application.

The applicant must provide verification by the course coordinator or trainer as to the claimed supervision component of the course, as defined above.
