Written feedback form

Thank you for taking the time to complete this written feedback form to support the development of national standards for counsellors and psychotherapists.

In response to the recommendations of the Select Committee into Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, the Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) has engaged *Allen + Clarke* to develop a set of national standards for counsellors and psychotherapists.

We are gathering insights from key stakeholders to understand the current state and gain your views on the opportunities for the development of the national standards for counsellors and psychotherapists. In addition to the online survey that is currently open for submission, we are providing opportunity for those who prefer to provide written feedback.

This written feedback form has **19 questions**. Your response is confidential and will be stored in our secure filing system. We will remove any reference that may identify you in the outputs we produce. Once you complete this form, please email it to [NationalStandardsReview@allenandclarke.com.au](mailto:NationalStandardsReview@allenandclarke.com.au). Responses are accepted until end of day **5 July 2024.**

**Part 1: About you and your role**

Q1. Tell us about your role and how the standards for counsellors and psychotherapists relate to your work.

Q2. Could you communicate the core purpose for why counselling and psychotherapy professions exist the main ways that you engage with counsellors and psychotherapists in your work, and why standards might assist that?

Q3. Which Australian state or territory are you based?

**Part 2: Current state & challenges**

Q4. How do you currently use, teach or observe standards or frameworks relating to counselling and psychotherapy services?

Q5. What are the strengths of the current arrangements?

Q6. What are the key challenges with the current arrangements?

**Part 3: Future national standards for counsellors and psychotherapists**

Q7. The objective of the national standards is to define national minimum standards for education, supervision, continuing professional development, and oversight requirements to ensure quality, safety and confidence in the counselling and psychotherapy professions. Does the objective meet your expectations? Are there any adjustments that need to be made?

Q8. How should the future standards work alongside other standards? For example, existing ACA and PACFA standards, other counselling profession standards.

Q9. Which professional disciplines should be captured by the national standards?

Q10. What types of practice areas should be captured by the national standards, and why do you think so? For example, education and training, competence, quality of care, ethical conduct.

Q11. Which practice areas should not be captured by the national standards, and why?

Q12. Who should have oversight of the national standards?

Q13. In your opinion, how do you think education on these standards should occur?

Q14. In your opinion, should compliance with the national standards be voluntary or mandatory?

Q15. Is there a regulatory model that should be considered in the development of national standards? If so, please describe.

Q16. How should the national standards be implemented? Where have you seen similar standards implemented well?

Q17. What considerations should the Department have in its implementation of the national standards?

Q18. Noting that we will be talking with advocates of people with lived experience, what role might people with lived experience and their representative bodies have in the implementation of these standards?

Q19. Are there any final statements that you would like to make or any final reflections that you would like to share?