

Given the mental health concerns that modern society now faces, it is important to include professional counsellors and psychotherapists in the list of service providers available, as often wait lists for other health clinicians can be long and expensive. Experienced and high level trained counsellors and psychotherapists make a valuable contribution to the health of seniors and carers, and it is important to build on this.

A national peak membership body such as PACFA has professional and ethical oversight over its counselling and psychotherapy members. It also provides professional development and access to professionally trained supervisors, and has a College of Supervisors. PACFA also ensures its membership base meet ethical standards, has up to date police certificates, and provides audits, compliance with Aged Care Quality Standards, criminal history checks, and NDIS worker screening clearance where appropriate. Counsellors who are registered with PACFA must therefore meet strict requirements for their annual registration, such as completing a minimum level of clinical hours of supervision and professional development. They also need to have public liability insurance, hold first aid certificates, as well a police check certificate, and a working with children check.

Registered Counsellors with PACFA must also follow the PACFA Code of Ethics, the PACFA Code of Conduct (particularly for leadership positions), and the PACFA's Scope of Practice is readily available on their website. Thank you