

**On 7th August 2024 the Psychology Board of Australia released an advanced copy of the new Professional Competencies for Psychology.**

**These take effect from 1st Dec 2025 and mark important positive changes for psychologists, particularly as it relates to supporting inclusion, diversity and neurodivergence.**

### **Competency 7**

Competency 7 mandates that psychologists must work without discrimination and be inclusive, sensitive & respectful of all forms of diversity in relation to both clients and colleagues.

### **Competency 7.1**

Works without discrimination and is inclusive, sensitive and respectful of all forms of individual diversity in clients, colleagues, and relevant others and with an understanding of intersecting forms of diversity. This includes, but is not limited to age, race, ethnicity, language, culture, immigration status, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical attributes, abilities, disability, cognitive capacity, social and/or economic status, geographic location, educational attainment, and religious and/or spiritual orientation.

### **Competency 7.2**

Works with knowledge and understanding of the history of psychological theories and practice, their impact on people from diverse groups, and referral pathways to specialised supports where appropriate.

### **Competency 7.3**

Understands the impact of cultural identity, values, beliefs and experiences on psychological wellbeing or behaviour, including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrant and refugee experiences.

### **Competency 7.4**

Recognises the impact of one's own values, beliefs, experiences, positionality and cultural identity on practice and demonstrates an ongoing commitment to culturally responsive practice.

### **Competency 7.5**

Demonstrates the ability to reflect on and learn from clients/relevant others and their unique experiences.

### **Competency 7.6**

Adapts psychological practice in response to the needs of people from diverse social identity groups and different cultural backgrounds to effectively engage with clients, carers, families, those with lived experience and relevant others.

### **Competency 7.7**

Applies the principles of trauma-aware and culturally informed care.

### **Competency 7.8**

Understands the roles of, and works collaboratively with, service providers and professionals who support socially and culturally diverse individuals and groups.

### **Competency 7.9**

Understands neurodiversity, strengths-based, trauma-informed and positive approaches to supporting people with developmental disability. Demonstrates the ability to adapt psychological practice and make reasonable adjustments for people with disability, including understanding of alternative and augmentative communication.

**Find the full copy of the new Professional Competencies for Psychology at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au)**

[www.jdneuroaffirming.com.au](http://www.jdneuroaffirming.com.au)

