

## 10 Resumption of Practice Standard

Resumption of Practice requirements aim to protect the integrity of the PACFA Register by making sure that all registrants have current knowledge and skills even if it has been some time since they practiced, or if their current practice is limited. This Resumption of Practice Standard provides a retraining framework to ensure the professional competence of all registrants, and the quality and safety of services provided.

### Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all PACFA registrants who are:

- › unable to meet PACFA's Recency of Practice Standard, or
- › any individual who has taken an approved leave of absence from PACFA registration for more than three years.

Failure to meet the requirements of this Standard is considered a breach that results in the lapse of PACFA registration.

### The Resumption of Practice Program

The Resumption of Practice Program for each applicant will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be either a self-directed or a supervised program, and will require the successful completion of prescribed and self-selected training, and/or additional clinical supervision.

The Resumption of Practice Program requirements will vary according to:

- › the level and years of PACFA registration
- › the number of client hours undertaken
- › if applicable, the length of time on leave, and
- › professional activities including relevant CPD or study undertaken during leave from practice.

Activities undertaken as part of a Resumption of Practice Program are in addition to the annual renewal of registration requirements.

For those on leave it is necessary that scheduling the completion of the Resumption of Practice Program coincide with their planned return to work.

## Two pathways: Self-Directed and Supervised

There are two pathways in the Resumption of Practice Program: Self-Directed and Supervised.

### Self-Directed Resumption of Practice Program Pathway

The Self-Directed Pathway requires applicants to:

- › take personal responsibility in both identifying their learning objectives and their learning
- › submit a *Resumption of Practice Plan* to PACFA
- › complete the required program hours within the timeframe specified by PACFA
- › submit to PACFA a completed *Evidence of Resumption of Practice Plan*.

### Supervised Resumption of Practice Program Pathway

The Supervised Pathway requires applicants to:

- › select a mentoring supervisor from the list of PACFA Accredited supervisors specifically identified to provide mentoring
- › arrange a minimum of three sessions with the mentoring supervisor totalling a minimum of three hours
- › be responsible for the cost of the supervision sessions
- › take responsibility for identifying their learning objectives while developing a Resumption of Practice Plan under the guidance of the mentoring supervisor
- › submit a *Resumption of Practice Plan* to PACFA
- › take responsibility for their learning during their Resumption of Practice Program whilst consulting with their mentoring supervisor
- › complete the required program hours within the timeframe specified by PACFA
- › submit to PACFA a completed *Evidence of Resumption of Practice Plan*.

Supervision undertaken as part of a Resumption of Practice Program is in addition to the annual renewal of registration requirements.

## Reactivation of Registration

Once an applicant has been advised of the successful completion of their Resumption of Practice Program, their registration will be reactivated subject to their having paid the membership fee and the meeting of all mandatory declaration requirements.

## Right of Appeal

Individuals who have had their registration lapsed due to an unsuccessful completion of a Resumption of Practice Program have the right to appeal. For more information, refer to the Registration Appeals Policy.

### Document version control

Version	Description	Originator	Reviewed	Approved	Date	Next review
A	Effective January 2026	Professional Standards Committee	PACFA Office	Board	February 2025	February 2027

For further information, please email [admin@pacfa.org.au](mailto:admin@pacfa.org.au)

# Glossary

## What constitutes 'Practice'?

The term 'practice' is used broadly and significantly more broadly than Client Contact as defined in PACFA's Client Contact Standard. Client Contact hours are used as PACFA's measure for registration and annual supervision requirements and are required to be recorded by all registrants in the member portal at renewal of membership.

The term 'practice' for the purposes of this Standard includes any role in which the registrant uses their knowledge and professional expertise as a counsellor, psychotherapist, or Indigenous Healing Practitioner to contribute to the safe and effective provision of services:

- › Practice may comprise of direct or indirect client work and can be paid or part of a formal volunteer arrangement and may be full or part-time.
- › The types of roles that constitute practice include, but are not restricted to, client work, receiving and/or providing clinical supervision, management, administration, teaching, research, consultancy work and policy development for example. It is important to note that acceptable roles must use skills and knowledge related to their PACFA registration and within their scope of practice.
- › Whilst preparation for and presentation of a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity does constitute practice, practice does not include attending a CPD activity.

## Practice requirements

To meet the practice requirements as outlined in the Recency of Practice Standard you must complete a minimum of:

- › 150 hours of practice per year, or
- › 450 hours of practice in the previous three-year period.

For the purposes of the Recency of Practice Standard, *one hour of client contact equals two hours of practice* (and is thus inclusive of session preparation, session noting and session follow-up).

Reference: PACFA Recency of Practice Standard