

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Allied Health Practitioner Students & Provisional Psychologists

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FAQs on AHP Students & Provisional Psychologists



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Allied Health Practitioner (AHP) Students/Provisional Psychologists, AHP Providers and the NDIS

The NDIA encourages innovation from providers when delivering supports to achieve participant's goals. NDIA also seeks to develop the capacity of participants as consumers to exercise choice and negotiate with providers. Providers should talk with participants about the ways Allied Health Practitioners (AHP), students/provisional psychologists, or Allied Health Assistants (AHA) can contribute to achieving participant outcomes. It is also beneficial for the student/provisional psychologist to work with people with disability as they are more likely to choose to work in the area if they have had a positive experience as a student.

1. Are AHP students/provisional psychologists on clinical/practice placement able to provide services to NDIS participants?

Yes, provided that they are under the supervision of a qualified AHP when delivering the services and the participant has agreed that the student may deliver specific aspects of the support. NDIA expects that the specifics of this consent is documented in the service agreement between the provider and the participant, and that the arrangement results in added flexibility (e.g. lower hourly rate or additional hours of service) for the participant.

2. Can a registered provider charge a supplemental fee for services provided to NDIS participants by AHP students/provisional psychologists on placement?

No. The Department of Social Services Market & Workforce Development Team and the NDIA have agreed that students/provisional psychologists on professional placement under supervision (usually an unpaid role) are NOT payable separately to their professional supervisor. So the supervisor can claim the relevant professional rate from the NDIS, and if agreeable with the participant, the student can provide the services under the professional's supervision. They cannot charge for the student/provisional psychologist as an AHA (or other role) in addition to the professional rate.

3. Would AHP students/provisional psychologists on placement be able to deliver a service (supervised by the professional provider) that was not billed?

Yes, for example the provider might bill for a fixed number of appointments/services as agreed with the participant, but then be able to offer extra sessions delivered by the

student/provisional psychologist under supervision to effectively extend the value of the service purchased. In this scenario, the participant would essentially receive more hours of service for the same cost (as the student/provisional psychologist hours are not billed). Alternatively, the provider and participant may agree a lower hourly rate when supports are provided by a student, enabling the funding of additional hours of service.

4. Can an AHP student/provisional psychologist, not on placement, but employed by a provider in an appropriate capacity under the NDIS Terms of Business and Guide to Suitability be able to be paid for services delivered to an NDIS participant with the participant's agreement and noted in a service agreement?

Yes. If a person (whether student or otherwise) is employed at the provider's practice as e.g. an AHA and appropriately supervised, then they can provide that support (and it can be claimed at the appropriate AHA rate). The AHA cannot claim the AHP rate and the AHA rate for the same service.

5. Why is the approach for provisional psychologists the same as for AHP students?

The Psychology Board of Australia/AHPRA does not register students. Students enrolled in an approved program of study that leads to registration with the Psychology Board of Australia apply for provisional registration.

Provisional registration is the registration type that enables the individual to complete a period of supervised practice that is required to be eligible for general registration as a psychologist.