

Theological Requirements for CCAA Members

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRATION OF FAITH

One of the barriers of entry that CCAA has to people applying to becoming members is our theological integration requirements yet a core value and distinctive of the Association is its emphasis on fostering and promoting integration of theology and a Christian worldview into counselling practice. This is a matter of professional development. A challenge is that there are people who apply for membership who have not done any formal theological training, nor have they received teaching about integration as part of their basic training, especially if they have received their training from a non-Christian training provider. For some of these applicants, integration is a new unexplored field. And so, if they are unable to satisfy the theological integration criteria, they are denied membership. Yet, there is a desire that CCAA does not abandon or lower its theological integration requirements. From the March meeting in 2017 new policies have been adopted.

REGISTERED MEMBER APPLICATION – ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON THEOLOGICAL INTEGRATION

There has been a change to the Registered Members Application Form regarding Pathway 3 for satisfying the theological and faith requirements:

- 'If there are insufficient details in pathway 1 or 2, then applicants are required to do **EITHER** an interview regarding Christian study, reflection and integration **OR** attendance at a 1-day PD on the topic of Integration.'

The addition of the option of doing a 1-day workshop is a welcome option that satisfies the entrance requirements. This opens the way for theological workshops around Australia that satisfy this requirement.

CLINICAL MEMBER THEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENT IS NO LONGER A GRADUATE REQUIREMENT

Requirements for theological integration of faith and practice have now become a qualification requirement for clinical membership only rather than graduate membership, and the requirements have been modified in the following ways:

- The Theological Preparation requirements are no longer a requirement for Graduate Membership application, but only 'Reference of Christian Standing' and the 'Faith and Values'

Statement.

- For Clinical Membership application 'Theological Preparation' is renamed 'Theological Integration'. This section contains the following requirements:
 - > Attendance of at least 5 hours CCAA PD workshop that is focused on theological integration, attendance certificate required
 - > At least four supervision sessions of the required supervision for Clinical Membership to be undertaken with an Accredited CCAA supervisor who possesses a bachelor's or post graduate degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent, where the focus of that supervision is developing the counsellor's own integration of Christian faith and theology with professional practice;
 - > Form to be submitted by the supervisor commenting on the supervisee's competency in these areas of integration of Christian faith and theology with professional practice.

SUBCATEGORIES OF CLINICAL MEMBERSHIP

One way of reflecting upon and recognizing the value that CCAA is placing upon complementary training in ministry or theology as having an important contribution to developing professional practice as a Christian Counsellor is by making modifications to the Clinical Membership category:

Three subcategories of Clinical Membership have been developed

- An **Accredited Supervisor** subcategory of membership be recognized with postnominal CMCCAA (Sup.). A member needs to satisfy the CCAA requirements for an Accredited Supervisor to have these postnominals.
- A **theologically qualified Clinical Membership** category is recognized with the postnominals CMCCAA (Theol.).
 - > A member needs to have completed a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a Doctorate in theology from an accredited institution to qualify for this category of membership.
- A **theologically qualified accredited Supervisor sub category of Membership** is recognised with the postnominals CMCCAA (Sup.Theol.).