

# PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION POLICY

## FACT SHEET FOR SUPERVISORS



Professional supervision for financial counsellors is a formal relationship between supervisor and supervisee designed to promote wellbeing, facilitate reflective practice, explore ethical issues, develop casework skills and foster best practice.

FCAT may approve financial counselling supervisors who are:

- i. Accredited members of FCAT or
- ii. Other suitably qualified persons

To gain approval from FCAT to become a supervisor, accredited members of FCAT must satisfy the following criteria:

- i. be a current full member of FCAT
- ii. have 3 or more years FTE experience as a financial counsellor working with clients since holding the Diploma of Financial Counselling
- iii. provide proof of being insured for professional indemnity (either as an employee of a Agency or as an individual policyholder)

To gain approval from FCAT to become a supervisor, persons who are not financial counsellors must satisfy the following criteria:

- i. be a lawyer with current qualifications who holds consumer law experience or currently qualified counsellor, psychologist or other professional with discipline specific skill set (appendix 1 of national policy)
- ii. provide proof of being having an ABN being insured for professional indemnity

An applicant to become an approved supervisor can be provided pre-approval by FCAT if they meet all criteria other than being cleared to provide supervision in-house by their employing Agency (and thereby be covered under the organisation's professional indemnity insurance) or the applicant does not yet have ABN and professional indemnity insurance. Final approval would only be provided once the final conditions are met.

An approved supervisor can retire from full time financial counselling and remain operating as a qualified supervisor for a maximum of two years.

FCAT will publish the procedure for the approval and renewal of financial counselling supervisors. All approved supervisors as at the commencement date for this policy will be expected to submit an application under the rules and procedures of the policy in order to maintain their accreditation.

It is **mandatory** for formal written agreement between supervisor (internal/external) and agency. FCAT maintains a draft agreement consistent with the National Policy.

As supervision is an integral part of employing a financial counsellor, agencies accept the cost of professional supervision as part of the overall costs of employment.

It is **best practice that** before financial counsellors change supervisors that there be open communication between the financial counselor and their supervisor as to why the change is being sought.

Professional supervisors are expected to continue the development of their supervision skills and knowledge in order to maintain their accreditation with FCAT.