



Climate Aware Practitioner Network

Application Guidelines

Introduction

Psychology for a Safe Climate (PSC) has been working for 10 years to foster understanding of the emotional challenges in engaging with climate change. Our work is founded on offering emotional support to people to face the reality of climate change. PSC has developed a model for supporting people. We offer group workshops to process feelings about the climate and the ecological crisis. We have worked with climate activists, scientists, governmental organisations and members of the community who are concerned about the climate emergency.

Our expertise is in the development and delivery of workshops which support expression of feelings about climate change. In the last few years, we have also offered a small-scale referral resource for people seeking professional help with the psychological impact of the growing climate crisis.

To help grow awareness of the benefit of work like ours in our professional community, to share our experience so that others might take up this or similar work, and to support referrals to professionals who are sensitive to the impact of climate change on people's mental health, PSC is establishing a network of Climate Aware Practitioners (CAPs).

About the Network

The CAP Network is being developed as a national network of climate engaged professionals who are proactive in building the psychosocial support and resilience of individuals and communities in systemic, connected and culturally appropriate ways.

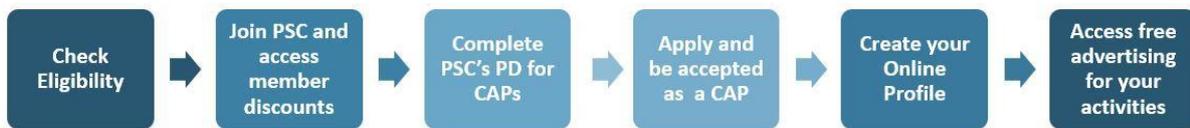
The Network will enhance capacity across Australia to respond to the growing numbers of individuals, groups and communities who are being impacted psychologically by the climate crisis.

The Network will enable people who are seeking support around climate distress to find a CAP in their local area. Practitioners who join the Network will be suitably qualified people who have been introduced through supportive Professional Development activities to the approach developed by PSC in our workshops, writing and talks. Once accepted, CAPs will be listed on a CAP Directory at the PSC website.

Applicants are required to be mental health professionals who provide (or wish to provide) individual or group mental health services related to climate distress, or General Practitioners or Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Workers with a strong interest in mental health and climate distress. Some other professionals who deliver workshops or other activities relating to climate distress may also be recognised as CAPs if they have relevant training and experience.

CAP application process

Process to become a Climate Aware Practitioner



A. Check your eligibility

To be eligible for recognition by PSC as a CAP, applicants must be:

1. Qualified professionals from one of the following backgrounds:

- Mental health professional
- General Practitioner
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Mental Health Worker

OR

2. Other professionals who are trained and experienced as facilitators of activities or workshops which support people in climate distress (Other Professionals). This category may include:

- Retired mental health professionals
- Those who do not meet the requirements for professional registration but who demonstrate substantial relevant training and experience

For details of the registration requirements for mental health professionals and the requirements for other professionals interested in becoming CAPs, please see the Appendix.

B. Complete PSC's Professional Development for CAPs

PSC's Professional Development for CAPs must be completed by all types of professionals who wish to be recognised on the PSC website as a CAP.

Professional Development for CAPs:

- Engaging with climate change and eco-distress (2 hour Introductory webinar)
- Reflections and responses to the climate reality (3 hour experiential workshop)
- Being present with climate distress: Applications to professional practice (3 hour Professional Practice workshop)

C. Apply to be recognised by PSC as a CAP

Applicants are required to apply online using the [CAP Application Form](#). Applicants should check they meet all of the application requirements for their application category.

1. Health and mental health professionals

- i) Completion of PSC's Professional Development for CAPs
- ii) Membership of PSC
- iii) Supporting material to demonstrate the applicant meets the eligibility criteria such as:
 - Copies of registration or membership certificates with the relevant professional bodies
- iv) Payment of the annual CAP fee

2. Other professionals

- i) Completion of PSC's Professional Development for CAPs
- ii) Membership of PSC
- iii) Supporting material to demonstrate the applicant meets the eligibility criteria such as:
 - o A CV detailing training and experience facilitating climate distress workshops or activities
 - o Copies of certificates of training or a confirmation letter from the training provider
 - o A log of workshops or other activities delivered and testimonials from participants
- iv) Payment of the annual CAP fee

Additional option to become a Facilitator of PSC's Climate Distress Workshops

CAPs may take up the additional option of applying to become a Facilitator of PSC's suite of Climate Distress Workshops. Once accepted as a Facilitator, CAPs may be invited to facilitate workshops for PSC, and/or run the workshops themselves as part of their practice or business. There is additional Professional Development offered for those interested in becoming Facilitators.

Process to become a PSC Workshop Facilitator



PSC Facilitator Professional Development:

- Reflections and responses to the climate reality – Going deeper (3 hour experiential workshop)
- PSC facilitator skills (3 hour experiential workshop)

To apply, Applicants must go through the following process:

- i) Completion of the PSC Professional Development for Facilitators
- ii) Apply online using the [Facilitator Application Form](#) which includes a written reflection on your participation in PSC's Professional Development
- iii) For Applicants who demonstrate they have the required interpersonal and group facilitation skills, the next stage is co-facilitating a PSC workshop with another PSC Facilitator
- iv) Acceptance as a PSC Facilitator is then finalised

CAP Benefits

CAPs will have their names listed on the CAP Directory in one or more of the following categories:

- Mental Health Practitioner
- General Practitioner
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Worker
- Workshop Facilitator

CAPs can complete a Practitioner Profile on the PSC website. They can also list any online or face to face events they are running for free on the *Climate Wellbeing Events* page on the PSC website.

Those who have been accepted to deliver PSC's suite of Climate Distress Workshops may deliver workshops for PSC (in a voluntary or paid capacity) and as part of their own practice or business.

All PSC Members receive a 20% discount on PSC workshops, PD events and conferences.

Eligibility requirements for CAPs

1. Health and mental health professionals

Qualified professionals must be registered with the relevant professional body:

Profession	Requirements
Psychologists	➤ Registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
Counsellors	➤ Registration with PACFA as a Provisional or Clinical Registrant OR ➤ Registration with Australian Counselling Association at level 3 or 4
Psychotherapists	➤ Same requirements as for Counsellors or for other mental health professions (as applicable)
Psychiatrists	➤ Registration as a specialist Psychiatrist with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
General Practitioners	➤ Registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency AND ➤ Completed GPMHSC Level 1 (Extended) Mental Health Continuing Professional Development (MH CPD)
Mental Health Nurses	➤ Registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency AND ➤ Credentialed Mental Health Nurse with the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
Mental Health Social Workers	➤ Member of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) AND ➤ Approved by AASW as an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker
Mental Health Occupational Therapists	➤ Registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency AND ➤ Approved by OT Australia as an Accredited Mental Health OT
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Workers	➤ Registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as an ATSI Health Worker

2. Other professionals

PSC recognises that there are some other professionals who are highly trained and experienced in facilitating workshops and other activities to support people around climate distress. Applications in this category are considered individually taking into account all relevant training and experience.