



Expression of Interest: Psychologists Standards of Care (TSOC) Working Group

AusPATH invites expressions of interest from members to participate in the development of the inaugural *Psychologists Standards of Care (TSOC)*—a new national benchmark for psychological support of trans and gender diverse (TGD) people in Australia.

About the Project

Led by Emerson Osterberg, the TSOC will be developed collaboratively over a 6–12 month period, with the aim of outlining best-practice, affirming psychological care. The focus will include:

- Affirming and safe support for TGD children, adolescents, and adults
- Accreditation pathways and professional accountability
- Co-design with community and lived experience experts
- Identification of harmful and non-evidence-based practices, such as gender suppression therapy

This will be a community-led project, grounded in clinical insight, lived experience, and a strong commitment to advancing care. While not currently resourced through formal funding, the project will be shaped by those already delivering and advocating for best practice.

Why This Standard Is Needed

TGD people continue to face unreasonable barriers to timely, appropriate psychological support—particularly when mental health or neurodiversity is used as a reason to delay or deny access to gender affirming care. Contributing factors include:

- High prevalence of pre-existing mental health issues linked to minority stress
- Co-morbid presentations, including trauma and anxiety, that are not uncommon in the general population but are treated as exceptional for TGD clients
- The overrepresentation of neurodiverse people among TGD populations, whose needs are often misunderstood or pathologised
- Gatekeeping practices that require clients to demonstrate "readiness" or identity stability, even when their presenting concerns are unrelated to gender



The TSOC will address these gaps and articulate a clear, evidence-informed approach to care; one that affirms identity, respects diversity, and promotes psychological safety.

Who We're Looking For

We welcome EOIs from members with experience or expertise in:

- Clinical psychology or therapeutic practice
- Working with children, adolescents, or neurodiverse clients
- Research, especially in trans health or mental health
- Legal, ethical, or policy review
- Co-design or community consultation
- Guideline or standards development

This is a volunteer working group. All contributors will be acknowledged in the final document, and lead contributors will be credited as co-authors.

Commitment and Collaboration

Work will be structured over 6–12 months, with shared workspaces and regular meetings supporting collaboration. The process includes literature review, drafting, structured community engagement, and final consultation. Participation can be tailored to availability and interest.

How to Express Interest

Please complete the short pre-meeting questionnaire [here](#)

EOIs close: 1st August

For more information, contact: info@auspath.org.au



EARLIER DRAFTS:

Expression of Interest: Psychologists Standards of Care (PsychSOC) Working Group

AusPATH invites expressions of interest from members to participate in the development of the inaugural *Psychologists Standards of Care (PsychSOC)* for the psychological support of trans and gender diverse (TGD) people in Australia.

About the Project

The PsychSOC will set out best-practice guidelines for the delivery of affirming psychological care to TGD people, with a particular focus on:

- Affirming and safe support for young people
- Accreditation pathways and professional accountability
- Co-design with community, including neurodiverse and multiply marginalised people
- Identification and prevention of harmful practices such as gender suppression therapy

The final Standard will be completed within six months and aims to contribute meaningfully to clinical training, practice quality, and the wellbeing of TGD communities.

Why This Standard Is Needed

Access to timely psychological care is often hindered by outdated practices, gatekeeping, or assumptions of pathology. This is especially acute for TGD people who:

- Experience higher rates of pre-existing mental health issues, often linked to minority stress
- Are more likely to live with co-morbid conditions, including trauma and anxiety
- Are overrepresented in neurodiverse populations, yet often face inflexible or pathologising psychological assessment models
- Encounter clinicians who require them to "prove" identity or capacity, even when the presenting issue is unrelated to gender

This results in an unreasonable barrier to care that delays or denies access to essential support. The PsychSOC will centre affirming, collaborative approaches grounded in lived experience and clinical excellence.

We Are Seeking

We welcome EOIs from members with experience or expertise in one or more of the following areas:



- Clinical psychology and affirming therapeutic practices
- Working with TGD children, adolescents, or neurodiverse clients
- Research in trans health, mental health, or best-practice standards
- Legal, ethical, or procedural review of clinical guidelines
- Experience in co-design, especially with TGD and/or neurodiverse communities
- Previous involvement in guideline or policy development

This is a volunteer-based working group. All contributors will be acknowledged, and key contributors will be listed as authors on the final Standard.

Commitment

The project is being delivered over six months with structured phases, including literature review, framework development, community co-design, and formal review. Meetings will be held regularly, and shared document workspaces will be used to support versioning and collaboration. Time commitments can be adapted to suit availability and expertise.

How to Express Interest

Please complete the short pre-meeting questionnaire here: [Insert Link]

Expressions of Interest close: [Insert Date]

For more information, contact: info@auspath.org.au

We look forward to working together to build a stronger, safer, and more effective psychology care environment for our community.