

18 September 2026

APS response to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Consultation Survey on the Draft Version of the 2027 Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA)

The following is the Australian Psychological Society (APS) submission to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Consultation Survey on the Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA) 2027 update.

Question 8: Which proposed changes are you commenting on?

Will the proposed structural changes impact the way you or your organisation uses the classification:

1. 261231 Psychologist
2. 261134 Psychotherapist
3. 261999 Allied Health Counselling, Psychology, Social Work and Creative Therapy Professionals not elsewhere classified (nec)

Question 9: What should be corrected or reconsidered before this change is finalised? Do you have any feedback on the proposed layout of the classification?

1. 261231 Psychologist

The APS reiterates its concerns about the omission of Community Psychologist and Sports and Exercise Psychologist, both being Areas of Practice

Endorsement recognised by the Psychology Board of Australia, from the list of specialisations under this occupation. Please see our previous submissions for details

(<https://psychology.org.au/psychology/advocacy/submissions/2026/aps-submission-to-osca-2027-consultation> and <https://psychology.org.au/psychology/advocacy/submissions/professional-practice/2023/aps-submission-to-the-anzsco-comprehensive-review>).

2. 261134 Psychotherapist

The APS also restates its concerns about the description of Psychotherapist as outlined in our previous submission (<https://psychology.org.au/psychology/advocacy/submissions/2026/aps-submission-to-osca-2027-consultation>).

3. 261999 Allied Health Counselling, Psychology, Social Work and Creative Therapy Professionals not elsewhere classified (nec)

As psychology is a regulated profession, the APS considers that the title of this occupation should not include the term "Psychology," as there is no scope for a psychology-related profession to exist outside of the Psychologist (261231) occupation. The APS therefore recommends that the word "Psychology" be removed from the title of this occupation. A more general term such as "Mental Health" may be considered.

We note that there is a proposal from the Psychology Board of Australia for a “Psychology Assistant” occupation and workforce to be developed as part of reforms to the psychology profession. However, the scope and regulation of this profession is yet to be determined and will not be in place by 2027. We recommend that further revisions to the classification of psychologist-adjacent roles be deferred until there is clarity about the scope and regulation of the future workforce.

Question 10: Do you have any other comments?

As the peak body and national assessing authority for psychology in Australia, the APS has welcomed the opportunity to work with the ABS on the review of ANZSCO and development of OSCA. We look forward to ongoing opportunities to work at a technical, strategic and policy level to ensure that the classification of occupations in Australia remains fit for purpose and meaningful for the Australian government and community.

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