



Clinical Supervision

Position statement

January 2017



the Australian College
of Mental Health Nurses inc.

Clinical Supervision (CS) is a formally structured arrangement between a supervisor and one or more supervisees purposely constructed to provide a space for critical reflection on the work issues brought to that space by the supervisee(s).

Clinical supervision for the purposes of this statement is not clinical facilitation. Clinical facilitation involves a currently practising nurse or midwife engaged to facilitate student learning in a clinical setting.

It is the position of the Australian College of Nursing and the Australian College of Mental Health Nursing that:

1. Clinical Supervision is a core component of contemporary professional nursing and midwifery practice.
2. All relevant health service employers positively support and actively promote demonstrable and effective Clinical Supervision, through organisational policies, procedures and workplace culture.
3. All nurses and midwives be fully orientated to Clinical Supervision upon entry to their relevant health workforce and thereafter engage in sustained and meaningful Clinical Supervision, whatever their role and wherever they practice.
4. Supervisors access appropriate *bona fide* educational preparation for this role whether Clinical Supervision is delivered in dyads or within groups.
5. Regular systematic evaluations of the quality and efficacy of Clinical Supervision arrangements be undertaken at the local service level, taking care not to compromise the integrity of confidentiality agreements between supervisors and supervisees.
6. All professional nursing and midwifery organisations undertake to actively promote each of these positions and lobby funding agencies to consider large-scale, robust programs of outcomes-related research at state, territory and national levels, to further strengthen the evidence base of Clinical Supervision and to justify continued investment of public funds.

Review date: January 2018