

The Association of Christians in Counselling and Linked Professions (ACC)

Register Advisory Panel Governance Document No 3

Membership Selection Criteria

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Register Advisory Panel (hereafter referred to as the Panel) was established by ACC in 2014 to assist in meeting the obligations and commitments set out by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) in the Standards for Accredited Registers, published on the PSA's website [available here](#)
- 1.2 ACC determined that the way it could be supported in complying with the Standards was to set up an independent panel of individuals with expertise in professional regulation, healthcare, legal matters, patient and consumer advocacy or with similar relevant knowledge and experience to oversee the governance, design, and management of the accredited register of counsellors and psychotherapists held by the ACC under the Accredited Registers Programme.
- 1.4 This document sets out the membership criteria for panel members.
- 1.5 For further information about the Register Advisory Panel please see the Governance documents, available [here](#)

2. Requirements for Independence and Expertise

- 2.1 Independence is seen by ACC as a key objective. ACC will always aim for the majority of voting members of RAP to be either lay and independent ("lay" meaning that they are not practicing counsellors or psychotherapists and "independent" meaning that they are not a trustee, employee or hold any form of membership of ACC).
- 2.2 Panel members are expected to have expertise in professional regulation, healthcare, legal matters, patient and consumer advocacy or similar relevant knowledge and experience to fulfil the purposes of the panel.

- 2.3 There is a provision for two panel members to be a qualified and experienced professional registered counsellor, ideally with at least one of them being not being a member of ACC, to provide knowledge and expertise of counselling and psychotherapy practice to inform the Panels discussions. Their purpose is to provide knowledge and expertise of counselling and psychotherapy practice to inform the Panels discussions. This variation to a totally independent panel was agreed by the Professional Standards Authority in 2017 and further modified by ACC Board in 2025, allowing for more than one counsellor or psychotherapist to be members of the panel.
- 2.4 If the majority of panel members at any RAP meeting were not lay or independent, this should be reported to ACC board to consider if any action needed to be taken to maintain the independence of RAP.

3 Selection Criteria for Applicants

M – Mandatory characteristic; D- Desirable characteristic

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| 3.1 | Sympathetic to, knowledgeable about, and supportive of the Christian ethos of ACC as expressed in its Statement of Faith (2014) and/or the statement of Ethics and Practice (2014) available here | M |
| 3.2 | Committed to upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles, 1995) available here and copied below in section 4 | M |
| 3.3 | Experience of working within a regulatory framework of governance | D |
| 3.4 | Experience of client, patient and/or consumer advocacy | D |
| 3.5 | Experience /knowledge of mental health and well-being especially as they relate to counselling and psychotherapy | D |
| 3.6 | Enthusiasm for the work of ACC and commitment to preparing (for example reading draft policies) for and attending regular RAP meetings in person or via video link | M |
| 3.7 | Willingness to take on actions, relating to the roles and responsibilities of the panel, as appropriate and agreed, and completing them in a timely manner | M |
| 3.8 | Possessing skills and aptitude for the roles and responsibilities of the Panel as laid out in its Terms of Reference | M |

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| 3.9 | Engaging in interests that are compatible with the Terms of Reference of the Panel and the ethics of ACC | M |
| 3.10 | Acceptance of the ACC's right to terminate membership of the Panel should these criteria not be consistently met and principles and commitments upheld | M |

4. The Seven Principles of Public Life

4.1 Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

4.2 Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

4.3 Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4.4 Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

4.5 Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

4.6 Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

4.7 Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

5. Document Control

Last updated May 2025