



Media release

9 March 2010

Health and community psychology endorsements available

Community and Health psychologists now have access to area of practice endorsements that recognise their specific expertise.

In December 2010 the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council approved the two new area of practice endorsements for psychologists in addition to the seven area of practice endorsements approved by Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010. Following this announcement the Psychology Board of Australia immediately revised its Area of practice endorsements registration standard to include the two additional areas of practice and submitted it to the Ministerial Council for approval.

The Board has recently received the gratifying news that this approval has been granted and psychologists will now be able to apply for area of practice endorsements in health psychology and community psychology.

The two new area of practice endorsements means Australian now recognises the nine areas of practice recognised by most international jurisdictions with advanced psychology recognition of areas of practice. The Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia, Professor Brin Grenyer, said that "for the first time in Australia the public is now able to identify on a national register, psychologists with additional qualifications and supervised training in all these nine areas of practice".

Typically, psychologists with an area of practice endorsement have gone on after a Bachelor-level qualification to complete a specialised Masters or Doctorate degree followed by a period of supervised registrar training within their chosen area of practice. Under the old State and Territory based registration system (except in WA), the only registration category was 'psychologist' without any recognition of additional qualifications and experience. Professor Grenyer also said "those with an area of practice endorsement now have obligations to maintain competence in their area of practice through specific professional development to ensure on-going public confidence in their skills."

The nine area of practice endorsements are: clinical neuropsychology, clinical psychology, community psychology, counselling psychology, educational and developmental psychology, forensic psychology, health psychology, organisational psychology, and sport and exercise psychology.

AHPRA has produced a fact sheet for psychologists with information about the new endorsements including transition arrangements for psychologists seeking a health or community psychology endorsement. The Board has updated the forms relevant to Area of Practice Endorsement and these are now available on the Boards website at www.psychologyboard.gov.au. The current guidelines are now being revised to include the two endorsed areas of practice.

For more information

- Visit www.psychologyboard.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
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