

22nd February 2016

Psychology Board of Australia

psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Re: Draft Guidelines of Practice Endorsements – public consultation paper

Dear Board members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on practice endorsement competencies, particularly regarding the area of Counselling Psychology.

I would like to give my support for the revised competency statements (please see attached) as defined by the Association of Counselling Psychologists and the APS College of Counselling Psychologists. I am not a clinician but write from the perspective of a student in the Master of Psychology (Counselling) program at Curtin University. I am about to commence the second year of the course and can testify to the rigor and quality of the coursework and placement opportunities that I have received so far.

I would like to comment on comparisons between the Clinical and Counselling Psychology course structure at Curtin University where there is considerable overlap. Students of Clinical and Counselling Psychology attend the following classes together: Preparation for Professional practice (including sitting the same ethics exam); Research methods (with same exam); and Psychological Assessment. Both courses offer Masters Practicum, Dissertation and Psychopathology and Psychotherapy units throughout both years. For these, the course structure differs not so much in content but rather in the way it is offered, with Clinical Psychology offering Adult Psychopathology and Child Psychotherapy as separate units and Counselling Psychology combining them in their units. Other differences are that Counselling Psychology offers Group Psychotherapy and a Couples/Family Psychotherapy unit whereas Clinical Psychology offers a Health Psychology & Addictions unit, and Clinical Neuropsychology.

In light of these comparisons, and after having read the endorsement competencies for both Clinical and Counselling psychology, I believe the revised competency statements reflect a more accurate description of competencies that Master of Psychology (Counselling) graduates possess, particularly in areas of assessment for which the training is identical, ethics, diagnosis, formulation, individual psychopathology and psychopharmacology, provision of evidence-based psychological treatment and prevention for psychological problems and mental illness for adults, children, couples, families and groups. Many thanks.

Kind regards



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