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Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

RE : Guidelines on Psychology Area of Practice Endorsements

Dear Brin,

I am writing to you in reference to the recently published guidelines for PBA endorsements for "areas of practice" in psychology. I am concerned that all references to "diagnosis" and "mental health disorders" have been excluded from the description of counselling psychology.

I feel it is important that the PBA acknowledge the specialist skills and knowledge of counselling psychologists in the definition of the endorsement to include the "assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders".

Diagnosis, assessment of psychopathology and evidence-based treatment of mental health disorders are clearly identified as core domains of knowledge in the practice of registered specialist title Counselling Psychologists

I have been working in private practice for over 10 years and the majority of my practice includes this domain of work with adults with mental health disorders. In addition I have been working as a consultant and contract Counselling Psychologist with the Department of Child Protection in WA working with clients with complex mental health disorders on a daily basis. To exclude "assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders" from the definition in the PBA guidelines is incorrect and does not accurately represent our profession, skills and knowledge.

Thanks for your time, I hope that my view and that of the ACP are taken into account when reviewing the endorsements "areas of practice" definition. If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to call.

Yours Sincerely,



Duane Smith

- 8 SEP 2010