

**From:** Wager, Wendy [mailto:Wendy.Wager@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 September 2010 7:03 PM  
**To:** NationalBoards  
**Subject:** Counselling Psychology

Attention Mr Brin Grenyor, Chair, Psychology Board of Australia.

It concerns me greatly that the PBA has dropped the reference to treatment related to mental health disorders in their description of Counselling Psychology. As a Counselling Psychologist I underwent advanced training at a Master of Psychology level in assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders and provision of interventions. Some core units were shared by both the Counselling and Clinical Master enrolled students. My claim can be supported by the Psychologists Registration Board of WA, the APS College of Counselling Psychology and the Association of Counselling Psychology.

Counselling Psychologists deal with psychopathology and the Psychologists Board of WA require a checklist of specialist skills and knowledge for counselling psychologist registrars in diagnosis of psychopathology. The Psychologists Board of WA recognises this as one of the core competency areas of our group. In addition we are required to also show competency in a broad range of skills in applied psychotherapy - which is one of the key components of training in every accredited counselling psychology course in Australia. The applied psychotherapy includes couples therapy, family therapy and group psychotherapy.

Counselling psychologists are trained to assist people in dealing with complex mental health disorders as well as problems of living in today's society and I ask that the PBA formally recognise that fact.

Regards,

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