

March 3, 2016

Psychology Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

RE: Response to the area of practice endorsements consultation paper

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in my final year of the Doctor of Counselling Psychology at La Trobe University, and a Student Member of the Victorian Committee of the APS College of Counselling Psychologists.

I wish to express some concerns with the limited competencies proposed for the counselling psychology area of practice endorsement. Counselling psychology is a highly-valuable specialty area of practice. It is undeniable that in recent years, some entities within the Australian healthcare sector have favoured the clinical specialty. Certainly, setting high standards for competency is necessary to protect the public and the integrity of this profession. However in a pluralistic society like Australia, a diversity of high-quality specialty areas of practice is what is needed to best serve the population of mental health service users. In my opinion, the definition and competencies proposed in the consultation paper do not adequately reflect the expertise of counselling psychologists.

I therefore strongly urge you to adopt the revised competencies submitted by the College of Counselling Psychologists, which were developed in conjunction with counselling psychology program coordinators. I believe these revisions provide a more faithful account of the teaching and practice of counselling psychology, and are in line with international standards of practice.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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