

23 February 2016

Psychology Board of Australia

GPO Box 9958

Melbourne VIC 3001

psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Re: Public consultation paper 26: Area of practice endorsements

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on the definition of Counselling Psychology.

I wish to give my support for the revised competency statements provided to you by the *APS College of Counselling Psychologists* and the *Association of Counselling Psychologists*. Having read their updated description and list of competency statements it is my opinion that this revision more accurately reflects the nature of our postgraduate training, published research, and psychotherapeutic practice in the specialised domain of Counselling Psychology.

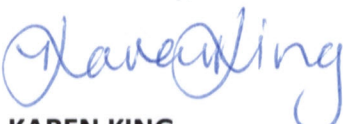
As a Counselling Psychologist working with children, adolescents and their families in private practice, my role is to provide psychometric assessment, differential diagnosis, therapeutic recommendations, and comprehensive reports for childhood neurodevelopmental disorders. The majority of my assessment referrals are from medical specialists who value my input into their more complex cases. Many of the families I see travel great distances from rural and remote Australian country towns seeking to understand their child's difficulties and assist their optimal development.

My referrals for psychotherapeutic intervention are from specialists and general practitioners who seek to work collaboratively to assist children and adolescents experiencing disorders such as; Specific Learning Disorder, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Developmental Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Generalised Anxiety Disorder, and Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder. The evidence-based parent-child psychotherapy services I offer to families are essential in ensuring the youngest members of our community have opportunities to reach their full potential.

The inclusion of competency statements relating to mental health assessment, differential diagnosis, case formulation, and evidence-based treatment interventions (including child, family and couple therapy), are an accurate reflection of the intensive postgraduate training I received, my published research, and the clinical reality of my daily work.

Please feel welcome to contact me should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,



KAREN KING BA(Psych), BPsych, MPsych(Coun)

Counselling Psychologist

Committee Member, APS College of Counselling Psychologists WA