



Dear Psychology Board of Australia,

Comment on: Consultation Paper on Codes and Guidelines for National Registration of Psychologists

Thank you for the opportunity to consult on the proposed Codes and Guidelines for the National Registration of Psychologists.

I wish to comment on the guidelines for the practice endorsement in areas of specialist practice. In particular, I am concerned with the area of practice in Forensic Psychology and the ability for those psychologists with general registration currently specialising in this area to attain practice endorsement.

The proposed transition arrangements allow for psychologists with a Masters in Forensic Psychology or those belonging to the APS College of Forensic Psychologists to attain practice endorsement in Forensic Psychology.

This restriction, however, would disadvantage many psychologists working with offenders in Juvenile Justice NSW, including the Chief Psychologist in Juvenile Justice. It is common for psychologists to have gained a Masters in Clinical Psychology and then to work in a forensic area. This situation originally developed before the Masters in Forensic Psychology became available, or because it was not as readily recognised in previous years. There is also significant overlap between the two degrees.

This situation also has implications for community safety. Juvenile Justice Psychologists would no longer be able to provide expert advice to Courts and other authorities without forensic practice endorsement. Yet, it is this body of psychologists that hold much of the expertise in working with juvenile offenders.

I would suggest to the Board that the "Transition arrangements for psychologists currently registered" be expanded to include those generally registered psychologists with experience in a forensic setting following a Masters in Clinical Psychology. Those with current forensic expertise and a clinical degree would then achieve forensic practice endorsement.

In support of this suggestion, I refer the Board to the NSW Crown Employees (Psychologists) Award. NSW Psychologists (those not working in Health) fought very hard to gain recognition of their specialist skills and the proposed PBA Codes and Guidelines will undermine this effort. I have attached this Award below. The Award recognises expertise by giving Psychologists the right to the titles of "Specialist Psychologist", "Senior Specialist Psychologist", "Chief Psychologist" and "Principal Psychologist". It applies to all Psychologists working in NSW Juvenile Justice, Police and Corrective Services; as well as Community Services and ADHC. The Award specifies under what circumstances a Masters degree would be acceptable for recognition of specialisation.

Submitted by:
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14 April 2010.

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