

From: susan burton [<mailto:suzeavalon@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, 11 December 2010 10:52 AM
To: NationalBoards
Subject: AREA OF PRACTICE ENDORSEMENTS-For the website

Dear Prof Grenyer,

I note that you have not revised/changed the rules regarding 'Grandparenting' for experienced practitioners in a particular area of practice.

Thus someone like myself, with 20 years of counselling experience, and a registration based on a Macquarie University Master of Arts (Counselling), is forbidden to use the title 'Counselling Psychologist', though I can still use my business name which includes counselling in the title.

I have contacted the **governing authority in the United Kingdom** to ask what they have done about Grandparenting for experienced counsellors. They Say:

"The grandparenting period is 3 years for counselling psychologists and closes on 30 June 2012. Individuals who wish to apply via grandparenting must meet certain criteria. **They must either demonstrate that they have been in practice in the relevant profession for at least 3 of the last 5 years** or they must show that they meet all the standards of proficiency for their profession."

I understand that Board is charged that "restrictions should be imposed only if necessary to ensure health services are provided safely and are of appropriate quality." I believe the board is being unnecessarily restrictive when it come to thousands of experienced practitioners being denied the use of a title that describes their area of work. I think the Board could safely apply the same rule that their United Kingdom counterparts are using. **After all, my licence to practice has its foundation in safety, that is what it is about.** And I can continue to counsel, and use the term 'counselling' in my business name. If the Board really believes I am unsafe then it is remiss when it comes to doing its job. I completed a quick survey of my last 10 clients, asking them to choose from a list comprising the 7 endorsed areas of practice and the generalist title, which one they thought I best fit, based upon the "type and quality" of the service they had received. Nine ticked 'counselling psychologist' and one ticked 'clinical psychologist'

If safety is not really the issue, what is?

I understand that the National Scheme is meant to take no role in rates of pay, or other employment matters. But this denial of use of area specific titles already has a history of doing just that. Clients of clinical psychologists can claim a higher Medicare rebate and this affects client choice and therefore, employment. Clients who have a history with me, or potential clients with a 'word of mouth' recommendation, may find their desire to choose, compromised by financial matters. Employment is also affected in that without the required title, a practitioner would not be considered for some advertised positions.

This makes issues of fairness at this stage, absolutely crucial, and to this end I ask the Board to create a genuine and automatic grandparenting pathway for practitioners who have worked in their area of practice for 3 of the past 5 years.

sincerely,
Sue Burton