

Friday, 4 March 2016

To: Psychconsultation

Subject: REVISED COMPETENCY STATEMENTS FOR COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGISTS

To Whom It Concerns

AHPRA

I wish to lend my support to the revised competency statements and corrections provided by the ACP and the APS College of Counselling Psychologists, as it more accurately reflects the work that I undertook in private practice for almost twenty-five years.

My work reflected competence in case formulation, evidence-based treatment and diagnosis, and mental health assessment.

Over my many years in private practice as a Counselling Psychologist and (after completing bridging requirements in 2009) Clinical Psychologist, I consulted with clients who presented with the following issues, which pertain to the revised competency standards:

Clients who required clinical assistance in dealing with PTSD, presenting with a variety of causes, including those who served in the army

Clients who, in the past, suffered sustained child sexual abuse, sometimes resulting in personality disorders as well as PTSD

Bi-Polar

Depression and Anxiety

Couples Therapy

Sexuality issues - gay and lesbian, sexual problems in the context of relationship, gender identity

Sexual Assault and the complex issues resulting from such an assault

Women's Health including Termination of Pregnancy and dealing with complex issues that sometimes result as a consequence of a TOP (experience gained while working at FPWA, and carried forward into my private practice)

Sexually transmitted infection, negotiating safe sex.

In the context of HIV, this sometimes led to complex anxiety disorders. (experience gained while working at the now defunct STD Clinic – WA Health Dept., and carried forward into my private practice)

On the subject of sexuality-related client presentations, the Counselling Psychology programme at Curtin University has offered a comprehensive excellent major elective, namely Sexology, as part of the Master's Programme. Similarly, Curtin university has provided a major elective in the area of Addictions, an area that Clinical and Counselling Psychologists are increasingly having to deal with.

There are many other categories of clients that I have worked with over the years, but for the purpose of this action, the above should be sufficient.

Sincerely

Nirada van der Burg

Counselling and Clinical Psychologist (Retired as of November, 2014).

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10