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Professor Brin Grenyer,
Chair Psychology Board of Australia
G.P.O. Box 9958 Melbourne VIC 3001

RE: Revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsements

Dear Brin,

I wish to respond to the call for submissions of comment regarding revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsements, namely core competencies for Counselling Psychologists 3.1.3. In its current form, the guidelines state that -

Counselling psychologists are specialists in the provision of psychological therapy. They provide psychological assessment and psychotherapy for individuals, couples, families and groups, and treat a wide range of psychological problems

This description neglecting to mention an important aspect of the training and work of counselling psychologists with respect to mental health competencies, specifically the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders.

It is my understanding that the PBS has previously been advised that counselling psychologists have advanced training in assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders. These sources have included the Psychologists Registration Board of WA, the APS College of Counselling Psychology and the Association of Counselling Psychology.

The **Psychology Board of WA** clearly states that diagnosis of psychopathology is one of the advanced areas of competency of counselling psychologists, in addition broad-ranging skills in applied psychotherapy. The **APS College of Counselling Psychology** documents that the diagnosis, assessment of psychopathology, and evidence-based treatment of mental health disorder are clearly identified in the core domains of knowledge of Counselling Psychologists.

It is important that these distinctions be made clear in the guidelines from the outset to prevent misinformation.

Yours faithfully

Antonietta Kenny