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Bruce E. Wampold, Ph.D., ABPP
Patricia L. Wolleat Professor of Counseling Psychology

March 3, 2016

Psychology Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001
Sent via email to: 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 am trained as a Counselling Psychologist in the United States, I am licensed as a psychologist, will all rights and responsibilities of such, I have trained psychologists who provide services in every sector of health care in the United States as professor of counselling psychology at the University of Wisconsin, and I have provide clinical workshops all over the world to practicing psychologists, including in the US, UK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Korea, Taiwan, Chile, Argentina, as well as Australia. I am also familiar with the training of Counselling Psychologists in Australia.

I wish to give my support for the revised competency statements provided to you by the Association of Counselling Psychologists and the APS College 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 the training, research, and practice in the specialised domain of counselling psychology.

We live in an age of evidence-based practices in medicine and related professional domains. I am sure you wish to make decisions about the current situation in a way that aligns with evidence. Several studies (see references for two such studies below) have examined the outcomes of mental health services delivered in variety of clinical settings. In all such studies the outcomes have not differed among professions or type of degree for mental health providers. These results are valid across level of severity, problem area, or diagnosis. There is no evidence to support creating a hierarchy of professions within psychological professions.

Thank you very much for considering my input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bruce E. Wampold', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Bruce E. Wampold, Ph.D., ABPP
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References:

- Wampold, B. E., & Brown, G. S. (2005). Estimating therapist variability: A naturalistic study of outcomes in managed care. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 73*, 914-923.
- Kraus, D. R., Bentley, J. H., Alexander, P. C., Boswell, J. F., Constantino, M. J., Baxter, E. E., & Castonguay, L. G. (2016). Predicting Therapist Effectiveness From Their Own Practice-Based Evidence. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. doi:10.1037/ccp0000083