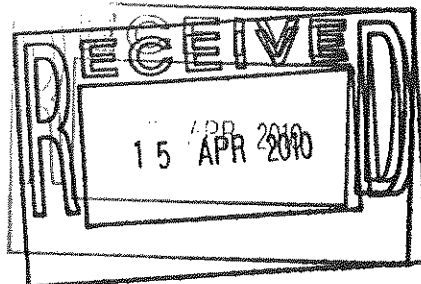




12 April 2010

Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia
PO Box 16085
COLLINS STREET WEST VIC 8007



Dear Brin

Re: Psychology Board of Australia Consultation paper on codes and guidelines

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the second Consultation paper on codes and guidelines issued by the Psychology Board of Australia. This submission is extremely short because the Consultation paper is very well written and thorough. It defines and explains the obligations of registered psychologists about what is acceptable/unacceptable advertising, what is required by mandatory notification, explains the term 'reasonable belief' and outlines the proposed development of a Code of Conduct based on the current Australian Psychological Society's *Code of Ethics* (2007).

The Health Services Commissioner (HSC) is aware of some 'nervousness' amongst some registered health professionals concerning mandatory notifications. The guidelines for mandatory notifications are very helpful and will give practitioners guidance when they need to make these often complex and difficult decisions. There is a clear and useful section on notifiable conduct and an explanation of what the word 'intoxicated' means. It is correctly pointed out that there is no definition in the National Law so the word has its ordinary meaning. HSC agrees that the issue here is the capacity of the practitioner to 'exercise reasonable care and skill in the practice of the health profession.' The flow charts which appear on pages 3, 4 and 5 are particularly helpful.

Yours sincerely

Beth Wilson
Health Services Commissioner