

From: susan burton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 September 2010 4:33 PM
To: NationalBoards
Subject: endorsed areas of practice

Dear Professor,

For website display

I have raised with the Board in a more detailed personal communication the matter of the absence of a grandparenting clause for psychologists with an M.A. in counselling, who are experienced in counselling due to years of private practice experience, to retain the right to describe themselves as counselling psychologists.

If I am understanding it correctly, under the current transitional arrangements, one needs a fifth and six year University qualification, plus supervised practice, to use the title. This leaves out, individuals who have gone to a 5th year only. I am not against raising standards, but I believe it is unnecessary and unfair to rule out experienced practitioners who have already proven themselves in the field, and who have followed legitimate educational pathways of the time.

One is tempted to argue that due to the interpersonal, and often intimate nature, of the work, this is the area where experience might be given most weight.

When it comes to psychologists who have been counselling for years, availing themselves of supervision where appropriate, and continuing to educate themselves through workshops, seminars etc., I think it would actually be misleading the public if such individuals are denied the right to reassure their clients by telling them they have specialised in counselling.

Thank you.

Sue Burton
psychologist