

4/03/2016

Psychology Board of Australia

GPO Box 9958

Melbourne, VIC 3001

psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Re: Public consultation paper 26: Area of practice endorsements

Dear Board members,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the definition of counselling psychology and to give my support for the revised competency standards provided to you by the Association of Counselling Psychologists and the APS College of Counselling Psychologists.

I believe that the updated description and list of competency statements (attached) more accurately reflects the nature of counselling psychologists training, research and practice in this specialised domain.

I am a counselling psychologist who has worked with offenders, both in the prison and community settings, in Western Australia and Victoria since 2002. In the various roles I have been employed in, I have assessed and provided treatment to individuals presenting with a variety of complex, severe and chronic mental health problems. These have included, but not limited to, psychiatric and co-morbid drug and alcohol problems, complex trauma, personality disorders and diagnoses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, PTSD and eating disorders. I have also performed cognitive assessments and frequently consult with neuropsychologists and psychiatrists in regards to the on-going treatment and management of my clients. Knowledge of psychopharmacology is a component of my work and should therefore be included in competency statements of my area of practice.

Sincerely,

Counselling Psychologist

BPsych, MPsych (Counselling Psychology)