

2 March 2016

Psychology Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001
psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Re: Public consultation paper 26: Review of area of practice endorsements

Dear Board members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input into this public consultation, a review of area of practice endorsements. In particular, I wish to provide input into the definition of counselling psychology as proposed in Appendix B of the draft consultation paper.

In place of the proposed draft, 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 (attached) it is my opinion that this revision more accurately reflects the nature of our training, research, and practice in the specialised domain of counselling psychology.

I base this opinion on both my post-graduate training and my work to-date as I have regularly been involved in assessment and therapy with clients presenting with often complex, severe, and chronic mental health problems. I have worked with clients presenting with issues and disorders including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, grief and loss, relationship difficulties, domestic violence, complex trauma, personality disorders and substance use disorders, and often presenting with a significant degree of comorbidity.

I believe the inclusion of competency statements relating to mental health assessment, case-formulation, psychopathology, psychopharmacology, and appropriate evidence-based care is a far better reflection of my postgraduate training and of my work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,



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