

Professor Brin Grenyer,  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
G.P.O. Box 9958  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Professor Grenyer

RE: The PBA Guidelines on the Area of Practice Endorsements that refer to  
Counselling Psychology

I am writing out of concern regarding your definition of the Area of Endorsement that pertains to Counselling Psychology.

In particular, I am concerned that your definition of Counselling Psychology fails to acknowledge that Counselling Psychologists possess advanced training and therefore skills in assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders. This fact has been well documented by representative agencies for the profession and this area of speciality including: the Psychologists Registration Board of WA, the APS College of Counselling Psychology and the Association of Counselling Psychology.

Further to this, in registering as a Counselling Psychologist in WA, the Psychologists Board of WA Checklist of Specialist Skills and Knowledge for Counselling Psychologists (ie the checklist by which we were assessed against in order to gain specialist title) included skills and knowledge that pertained to such competencies as: the diagnosis of psychopathology in as well as working with mental health disorders.

It is of great concern that you have omitted reference to the fact that Counselling Psychologists having advanced level *skills in diagnosis* in addition to assessment and treatment and that we are *trained to work with people with mental health disorders* in addition to complex problems faced by individuals, couples and families.

Currently, I work along side clinical psychologists both in my private practice and in my primary role with a national government agency that specialises in providing psychological services to veterans of war and peacekeeping operations and their families. The referrals I undertake in both settings are no different to that of my colleagues and in both settings presentations include a variety of complex mental health disorders. *I consider the description of Counselling Psychology in the current Guidelines of Areas of Practice Endorsements to be misleading and request you amend the description of Counselling psychology to reflect a better representation of the breadth and depth of this specialty area.*

I thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this issue and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Janine De Soyza  
Registered Counselling Psychologist  
MAPS

PO BOX 29  
Mt Hawthorn WA 6915