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Cc:
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Subject: Fw: psychology consultation paper

To whom it may concern

I would like to contribute my view on the psychology consultation paper on registration standards and related matters. I am a registered Educational and Developmental Psychologist (Registrar). I have worked at Disability Services Commission (DSC) for six years, two of those in a supervisory role. I also work in private practice.

Specifically I would like to voice my deep concern at the potential impact of specialist titles on job opportunities. In most cases, jobs are advertised according to the eligibility of the applicant for specialist title registration, not on the basis of their years of training, professional development and demonstrated skills and competencies. Currently, the vast majority of psychology jobs are advertised for Clinical psychologists, to the exclusion of other Specialist psychologists regardless of whether they can demonstrate the required skills.

My personal experience has been with being sought out for highly appropriate jobs based on the supervisor's knowledge of my experience and skills, only to find that the supervisor in question could not employ me because their department specified that the position could only be filled by a Clinical psychologist. This has been incredibly frustrating not only for me, but for the supervisors who are unable to employ the person they know would best suit the job.

Within DSC this rigid adherence to Specialist classifications meant that, for many years, psychologists of a specialisation other than Clinical were excluded from applying for jobs that were available to Clinical psychs - despite many having skills that were at least equivalent. This problem has been recognised within DSC, and has recently been addressed to some extent. However, it still occurs in any other government section that falls under the Health Dept. This also affects the provision of supervision opportunities during training within these agencies and depts. Many of them will not take students on placements where they will be ineligible for jobs in the future.

For the reasons outlined above, I would strongly object to a specialist title system based on the current WA system, or any other system where overly rigid specialist title groups prevent psychologists from making advancements in their careers in line with their ongoing skill development and experience.

I appreciate very much having the opportunity to contribute to this important decision-making process. Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Jessica Adderley

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