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Cc:
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Subject: Fw: Psychology Board of Australia discussion paper

To whom it may concern,

In the past I have felt frustrated at the lack of enforced standards for specialist psychologists in Australia and the limited knowledge of the community between highly trained individuals and those who practice with a 3-year degree. However, thanks to organizations such as the APS and the PBA, we are now moving into the right direction and I could not be happier in supporting the rigorous standards that were proposed in the paper for the attainment of specialist registration. My own training, which followed the current proposal of: undergraduate followed by a 2-year full time clinical masters (I was the last year at UniMelbourne to do a Clinical Masters), followed by 2 years of supervision from a clinical psychologist was invaluable in gaining the knowledge and expertise one needs in a demanding profession. Furthermore, I fully support PD activities as essential in keeping up with new approaches and scientific developments. I am currently completing my PHD in chronic disease self-management and I know that my research activities also make me a better clinician. I have always felt privileged in being able to complete the rigorous courses which Melbourne, Monash and LaTrobe offered in psychology. These standards were also readily accepted in Germany where I worked in a hospital in 2000 and was authorized to carry the title “specialist CBT psycho-therapist”, the equivalent of our “clinical psychologist”. It is immensely satisfying for me to witness the efforts of DHS to create more quality control in my profession, to officially reinforce and recognize those who already have been pursuing specialist training, and most importantly to improve delivery of high quality specialist services for the health consumer. Thank you for all your hard work!

Best Regards

Frauke Boelsen
Clinical Psychologist