



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: National Registration as a Psychologist

ATTENTION: Chair, Psychology Board of Australia

Reference: *"Consultation paper on registration standards and related matters "* dated 27 Oct 09

I would like to seek some clarification of my position under the matters canvassed in the above reference paper, as I believe I am adversely affected by the draft provisions for Professional Development and particularly for Professional Indemnity Insurance.

I commenced work as a Psychologist in NSW in the late 1960's and have practised continuously as a General Psychologist since that time, initially as an Educational Psychologist and subsequently for many years as an Organisational Psychologist. I also served as an Army Reserve officer in the Australian Army Psychology Corps, retiring in 1988 with the rank of Colonel. I have maintained registration to practise as a psychologist since the introduction of state registration in NSW in 1989.

I am now retired from full time work but, as an active part of my retirement plan, I perform a limited amount of paid work that involves the administration of psychological tests in group settings (not individual) on behalf of various government departments, as part of their recruitment programs.

Neither in the past nor in the present have I undertaken any psychological work that could be classed as "Health" related. I perform no therapy and have no intention of doing so. I am extremely conscious of my ethical obligations in this regard and I strictly limit my work to test administration and reporting of results to the Chief Psychologist of my client organisation for use in the Agency's selection processes.

My reading of the reference document suggests that after 1 July 2010 I will be required to undertake a detailed annual program of Professional Development and will be required to take out Professional Indemnity Insurance, to be able to gain registration and continue to practise.

With regard to the former, I continue to read in the area of General Psychology and to have frequent professional discussions with senior colleagues, so as to deliver the best possible outcomes to our clients and to the applicants for positions in the agencies we serve. The requirement for continued professional development is therefore no great burden, unless it will involve the outlay of significant expense.

However, having to outlay significant amounts of money for PII will impose a particular financial burden and will soak up most of the small amount of fees I receive for the work I undertake. Over recent years, when I have renewed my registration with the NSW Psychologists' Registration Board, I have been able to certify that I do not work in health-related psychological pursuits and I therefore have been excused from the requirement to take out PII. Will this same arrangement work under national registration?

Will you please clarify these interpretations of the reference document and give me some assurance that I will not be penalised under the terms of national registration, in regard to the matters I have raised in the preceding paragraphs.

Yours faithfully,

William A. Purdue

