



Psychology Board of Australia (PBA) proposal

Damian Cotchett o natboards

13/04/2010 10:06 PM

Cc: "Cotchett, Damian"

Hi,

I have read the consultation paper on registration standards and other related matters and several issues concern me as a registered psychologist working in the area of consumer psychology and organisational psychology.

I don't believe the standards take into consideration the specific nature and context of organisational and consumer psychology as outlined. For instance in Section 2., the mandatory nature of requiring psychologists to have professional indemnity insurance is not essential in the practice of all psychological activities.

On page 53 it is stated "The Board has an obligation to the community that all psychologists who hold registration are safe and competent to practice psychology, including delivering psychotherapy for mental health problems using focused psychological strategies.". The PBA has approached the definition of practising psychology in a limited manner not representative of the range of psychological services delivered in the community. Prescribing and implying that all psychologists work in mental health is narrow and limits the true value and contribution psychological services offer many individuals and groups in the community. In particular, organisational psychology and consumer psychology do not necessarily focus on mental health with their client groups and customers.

I think it is very important to adopt a broad definition of psychological practice as you have with the range of specialist titles mentioned in Section 4. One of my major concerns is that the proposal regresses into all reference to psychology as the study and practice of mental health. These guidelines need to continue to focus on both mental health and the many diverse groups that access psychological services who would not be considered to be within the mental health realm. I believe our society has done a tremendous deal to break down myths and barriers that project the profession as broader than mental health and now this proposal takes the community's thinking back decades in their perception of the profession.

Please consider these suggestions in your review of the PBA proposal. It is critical that a broad and representative view of psychology is adopted that is beneficial to all people and groups in the community.

Regards

Dr Damian Cotchett