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Psychology Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
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Re: Public consultation paper 26: Area of practice endorsements

Dear Board Members

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and ideas through the public consultation on a review of the *Area of practice endorsements registration standard* and the supporting *Guidelines on area of practice endorsements*.

As a member of the College of Counselling Psychologists, I am concerned with the definition and associated competencies for counselling psychology, as they appear in the Psychology Board's consultation paper. I do not think they accurately reflect the postgraduate training counselling psychologists receive, the realities of everyday practice nor the range of core skills and knowledge common to all psychologists who work in this area of practice.

More specifically as mentioned in the Counselling College document the current guidelines are missing core elements of the training and practice of counselling psychology. The guidelines fail to mention counselling psychologists' expertise in working with other modalities, for example couple therapy and competence in the assessment, formulation, diagnosis and evidence-based treatment of mental disorders across the lifespan. In addition, knowledge of psychopathology is missing.

In the light of my reservations about the competencies as they appear in the Psychology Board's consultation paper; I support the attached document developed by the Counselling College, in conjunction with counselling psychology program coordinators. I believe the amended definition of counselling psychology and associated competencies more accurately reflects the teaching and practice of counselling psychology in Australia, is aligned with recognised international standards for counselling psychology and acknowledges counselling psychologists' sustained focus on providing psychotherapy and treating mental disorders across the lifespan.

Yours sincerely
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