

Michael Di Mattia
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3rd March 2016

Psychology Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Board members,

Re: Public consultation paper 26: Area of Practice Endorsements

Dear Board members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the guidelines on area of practice endorsements.

I am a counselling psychologist with a long involvement in the practice, training and administration of counselling psychology. I have been involved with the APS College of Counselling Psychologists since 2003 in a variety of leadership positions and I am the current Chair of the college. I've supervised Masters and Doctoral counselling psychology students and have lectured in counselling psychology programs. Thus, I am very familiar with the teaching and practice of counselling psychology in Australia.

I have concerns that the current guidelines are not an accurate reflection of the teaching and practice of counselling psychology, as they don't highlight the extensive training received in treating mental disorders and working with other modalities, especially couple therapy. It misinforms the public about the competencies and scope of practice for counselling psychology and needs to be amended.

I support the revised definition and competency statements developed by the College of Counselling Psychologists, the Association of Counselling Psychologists, 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 and is aligned with recognised international standards for counselling psychology.

Yours Sincerely,



Michael Di Mattia
Counselling Psychologist