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1st March 2016

Psychology Board of Australia
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RE: Public Consultation Paper 26: Area of Practice Endorsements

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to give my support for the revised competency statements provided to you by the Association of Counselling Psychologists and the APS College of Counselling Psychologists. I have read their updated description and list of competency statements (see attached), and I firmly believe that this revision provides a stronger and modern reflection of the training, research, and practice in the specialised domain of counselling psychology.

Currently I am in my fourth year of part-time postgraduate study in counselling psychology, and have also been working as Registered Psychologist for the past seven years. At present I am employed with the WA Department of Health and also work in a private hospital. Primarily I work in the field of complex trauma, specifically with victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse. I have witnessed and experienced first-hand the breadth and strength of skills that practicing Counselling Psychologists display, and it is the admiration of their specific skillset above all others that has led me to follow my current academic and professional path.

The inclusion of competency statements relating to mental health assessment, case-formulation, and appropriate evidence-based care (inclusive of couples therapy) provides, in my opinion, a more accurate representation of the level of specialised training and work that Counselling Psychologists are engaged with.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any further information.

Regards,



Jonathan O'Neill
B.Psych