Education Training and Reform (Stage 2)

Rachel Phillips, Chair

Focus of presentation

1. Introduction to Education training and reform program

2. How we conduct policy in the area of regulatory reform verses BAU

3. Tasks and timeframes of the ETR Stage 2 program

The National Law: Objectives (s 3)

Protection of the public

Facilitate workforce mobility across jurisdictions

Facilitate the provision of high quality education and training

Facilitate rigorous & responsive assessment of overseas trained practitioners

Facilitate access to services

Development of a flexible, responsible and sustainable workforce

Why regulate?

- Public have a right to expect the same standard of service from any psychologist
- The **minimum expectation** is set through the setting and enforcement of standards and professional competencies
- Regulation is restrictive in its protective purpose

Psychology as a profession exists because the Australian community perceive a need for our services

Area of Practice Endorsement

- Competence for general registration is achieved <u>first</u> before AoPE endorsement
  - It is our professional competencies that distinguish Psychologists from other health professions

- In 2010 Ministerial Council recognised the public benefit of psychologists with advanced professional competencies in defined areas of <u>community need</u>
  - Area of Endorsement was identified as the appropriate regulatory tool

Context of AoPE reform

- Normal policy review in 2015
  - Feedback was significant – 133 submissions
    - Standalone programs for Psychologists
    - Increased flexibility in completing the registrar program
    - Currency of existing competencies across all AoPEs
    - Relevance of AoPE as a regulatory tool
    - Other feedback that was out of scope

- There is widespread confusion about the purpose of AoPE as a regulatory tool

Education and Training reform agenda

- Focus: reducing regulatory burden & complexity of psychology training

- Stage 1: Retirement of the 4+2 internship
  - ➢ Aim: reduce one of three domestic pathways to general registration

- Stage 2: Area of Practice Endorsement reform
  - ➢ Aim: Clarify and strengthen the regulatory categories of general registration and area of practice endorsement

ETR Stage Two: A phased process

- Part A
  - Focus*:* Competency requirements for general registration
  - Activities:
    - Revision of general registration standard; and
    - 5+1 guidelines
- Part B
  - Focus*:* Competency requirements for Area of Practice Endorsement
  - Activities*:*
    - Revision of AoPE standards and guidelines; and
    - Possible changes to APAC Standards

Carefully tailored policy approach

Focus	Business as usual	Reform
Purpose	Review of current standards and guidelines	New standards
Type of change	Minor/expected improvements Operational	Meaningful changes to how we regulate Conceptual and structural
Stakeholder engagement	High level of agreement on proposals Submissions from stakeholders focus mostly on operationalisation	A variety of strongly held views on proposals Can be partisan or political
Tasks	Standard consultation process Review one profession-specific area at a time	Green paper Tailored consultation process Multiple standards/guidelines being reviewed
Timeframe	12- 18 months	Extended
Level of risk	Policy change clearly manages regulatory risks	Reform and change results in a higher level of regulatory oversight

COAG Best Practice regulatory principles

- **Establish a case for action** before addressing the problem
- A range of **feasible** policy options must be considered
  - adoption of the option that generates the greatest community benefit
- Legislation **should not restrict** competition unless
  - the benefits of the restrictions to the community outweigh the costs,
  - the objectives can only be achieved by restricting competition
- Policy guidance demonstrates the **intent of the regulation**
- Ensuring regulation remains **relevant and effective**
- **Consulting** effectively with **key stakeholders** at all stages
- Government action should be **effective** and **proportional**

Major tasks and timeframes

Steps	Tasks	Indicative Timeframes
1. Developing a clear vision for reform	Green paper Forum Research and scoping Competency mapping: Independent experts	For Part A: 2019 – 2021
2. Consultation	Preliminary (targeted) Public OBPR/RIS Public Forum National Webinar	For Part B: 2022 - 2024
3. Implementation, communication, and transition	Ministerial Council approval Making changes to standards and guidelines Communicating outcomes Publishing agreed transition timeframes	