

03/03/16

Psychology Board of Australia

GPO Box 9958, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au



RE: Public Consultation Paper 26: Area of Practice Endorsements

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the definition of Counselling Psychology. I support the revised competency statements provided by the Association of Counselling Psychologists and the APS School of Counselling Psychologists. The updated description, definition and statements of competencies more accurately reflect our skills, training and specialised practice of psychology.

I have been in private practice for 15 years and I am the owner of The Henry Street Centre in Fremantle WA (13 psychologists) and also the Director of SPOT- The Specialist Psychological Outreach Team. I employ and supervise 8 Counselling Psychologists in this role.

The scope of our work on a daily basis with individuals, couples and families includes providing evidence-based assessment, diagnosis, formulation, psychotherapeutic interventions and treatment for a broad range of clients across the lifespan with mild to extremely complex psychopathology. We regularly work collaboratively on pre-admission and post discharge diagnosis, assessments, interventions and continued psychological support with acute mental health services in the state including Fiona Stanley, Princess Margaret Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital, Fremantle Hospital/Alma Street, The Marian Centre, The Abbotsford Clinic and Hollywood Clinic. We have an excellent working knowledge of psychopathology and pharmacology and the medical/clinical system as we work collaboratively and closely with psychiatrists, GPs and mental health nurses on a daily basis.

We also work effectively with multiple Headspace, CAMHS, Medicare Locals and Early Psychosis teams to provide clinical support to referrals under Better Access, Better Outcomes and ATAPS systems. For many years we have also worked longer term with children in care with complex trauma histories. Currently our SPOT Team supports over 30 young people in care with complex and challenging trauma related presentations. Many of these children are the most complex traumatised children in the state requiring wrap around 24 hour residential support and intensive long term psychotherapeutic support, clinical input and consultation. SPOT is a preferred provider with DCPFS for these children in WA and also is the primary clinical service support provider to other foster/residential support agencies in WA, such as Safe Places and Wanslea.

I also sit on the Clinical Advisory Board with Youth Focus in WA and SPOT provides psychological support on contract to service young people in schools with specific suicide/self harm presentations in the wheatbelt towns of Collie, Narrogin, Wagin and Northam. The lack of acute services in these areas, also require an increased knowledge of assessment and treatment of complex clinical psychopathology in the community.

The inclusion of competency statements relating to mental health assessment, diagnosis, case formulation, knowledge of psychopathology and psychopharmacology and appropriate evidence based care more accurately reflects my training, skills and daily clinical practice of myself and the counselling psychologists in my teams. I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

For any further information please don't hesitate to contact me on my mobile or email below.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Duane Smith'.

Duane Smith

Director/Counselling Psychologist -The Henry Street Centre /SPOT

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