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From: robert.oshea@scu.edu.au [mailto:robert.oshea@scu.edu.au]
Sent: Sunday, 15 August 2010 5:16 PM
To: NationalBoards
Cc: robert P. O'Shea
Subject: Attention: Chair, Psychology Board Endorsement Guideline

Dear Bryn,

I looked over the consultation paper, "Options for the protection of the public posed by the inappropriate use of psychological testing".

It struck me that the weakest part of the paper were the case studies. Most of these involve psychologists, the very people you are proposing to have care of psychological tests. Any legislator who looks at these case studies may conclude that if psychologists are not to be trusted to use psychological tests properly there is no extra cost in allowing non-psychologists to use the tests.

I think the case studies are an important rhetorical device, but they should make the argument that you are seeking to make: that tests are dangerous in the hands of non-qualified people. This will involve finding different case studies.

It also struck me that the aim of the paper: "[To find] what evidence is available of specific harms to the public due to the inappropriate use of psychological testing" (p. 4) needs to show that the harms are (far!) greater when the tests are administered or interpreted by unqualified or underqualified people than when administered or interpreted by qualified people. The paper in its current form does not do this. It ought to.

On a more stylistic note, the text is rather dense and overlong, and the case studies show several grammatical and punctuation errors. I hope these can be fixed in the final version.

I am happy for my submission to be placed on the Board's website.

Cheers,
Robert.

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