



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject:

> Dear Brin,
> Thank-you for raising this most important issue.
> I wanted to raise an issue that arose for me in a case I was
> assigned to assess back when I was completing my Masters in
> Clinical Psychology.
> It involved a young girl of approximately 7 years of age who had
> been assessed by a private school to be "Gifted" by tests the
> parents had been told were sound. The child had then been admitted
> to the private school's "Gifted and Talented" after school
> programme (at great expense). The parents were concerned that the
> young girl was "not performing at school at the level of her
> measured intelligence", creating anxiety for them, and needless
> self-esteem issues for the young girl.
> Once an evidence based psychometric test was administered (a WISC-3
> from memory) it was found that her IQ was in the average range- not
> a bad thing! But I don't hesitate to deduce that there were
> emotional as well as financial costs to this family, given their
> (understandably) unrealistic expectations.
> I wanted to raise this issue within the context of the private
> education sector, I cannot for the life of me remember the tests
> used that inappropriately classified her as gifted but had not
> heard of them (and don't believe I have since).
> I will be most interested to hear of the classifications used for
> psychometric testing as discussed in the paper- having worked in an
> inpatient psychiatric and subsequently psycho-geriatric setting I
> have seen a good deal of evidence that misinterpreted tests can
> have catastrophic consequences.
> On another note, I would be most interested to hear if the PBA will
> have a position statement on what constitutes adequate assessment
> of a client presenting with a queried depression versus dementia.
> It is a fascinating question, and one that is definitely not
> universally well tested.
> Best wishes,
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> Rose Cumberland
> Clinical Psychologist
> Children and Young People's Mental Health
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> Disclaimer: Unless explicitly attributed, the opinions expressed in
> this email are those of the author only and do not represent the
> official view of Northern Sydney Central Coast Health nor the New
> South Wales Government.
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