

From: Gemma B M [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 September 2010 11:30 PM
To: NationalBoards
Subject: Response to request for suggestions re practice endorsement guidelines

Dear Brin,

I am writing regarding the PBA's current reviewing of practice endorsement guidelines, and am responding to the Board's request for suggestions regarding improved descriptions and core capabilities in the areas of practice endorsements.

Counselling psychologists have expertise in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders, and this expertise and specialist training is recognised by bodies including the Psychologists Registration Board of WA, the APS College of Counselling Psychology and the Association of Counselling Psychology. I believe it is important, and ethical, to include in the description of Counselling Psychologists, and also within the core capabilities, a statement and recognition that Counselling Psychologists work with mental health disorders.

I draw your attention to the WA Psychologists' Board checklist of specialist skills and knowledge for counselling psychologist registrars which states clearly that diagnosis of psychopathology is one of the advanced areas of competency of our group, in addition to broad-ranging skills in applied psychotherapy.

I find it strange that the term "mental health disorders" has been omitted from the description of counselling psychology, when it so clearly is a major part of the work that counselling psychologists do, and ask that it is included in the revised descriptions and recognised in the core capabilities for counselling psychology.

I thank you in anticipation of the PBA reviewing the guidelines objectively and taking action to rectify this omission.

Yours faithfully,

Gemma Barter
MAPS