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Sent: Friday, 3 September 2010 12:08 AM
To: NationalBoards
Subject: revisions to guidelines

Professor Brin Grenyeer

Revisions to the Guidelines on Area of Practice Endorsement

I have concerns regarding Psychology Board of Australia (PBA) definition of core competencies for Counselling psychology. Currently it appears not to fully reflect the competencies that Counselling psychologists attain in their training and supervision.

Specifically it is noted that the Australia Psychological Society Counselling College outline of Counselling Psychology competencies includes the term "mental health disorders", whereas the PBA outline of competencies for Counselling psychology, is identical except that it omits the term *mental health disorders*.

The PBA outline of competencies for counselling psychologists, to be fully accurate, needs to include the term Mental health disorders for the following reasons:

- 1) It is stated by the APS Counselling College that Counselling psychologists treat mental health disorders via psychotherapy.
- 2) The checklist of specialist skills and knowledge for counselling psychologists, WA psychology board, includes diagnosis of psychopathology i.e. "knowledge of psychopathology and understanding and use of diagnostic classification systems (DSM and ICD)"
- 3) To be 'specialists in the provision of psychological therapy' (as the core competency outline PBS and APS College of Counselling Psychology state) counselling psychologists assess, identify and diagnose mental health disorders.
- 4) Counselling psychologists currently work treating mental health disorders in either the private and public sectors across Australia and in other parts of the world including, USA, Canada, and NHS in Britain.
- 5) The PBA outline of Counselling psychology competency needs to clearly state that Counselling psychologists treat mental health disorders (not only psychological problems) in order to accurately and fully inform the public, employers and prospective students of psychology.

I request that PBA outline of core competencies be amended to clearly state that counselling psychologists *treat mental health disorders*

Yours sincerely

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