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Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Fw: Attention: Chair, Psychology Board of Australia'

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To the Chair,

I would like to offer the following comments for consideration.

In regards to supervision requirements: I would like it to be noted that difficulties frequently are encountered in rural locations regarding obtaining/maintaining supervision, and also that there can be limited choices for that supervision. Accordingly, in order to offer more supervision options, could psychiatrists be included as supervision providers.

There is an existing problem in rural areas regarding a lack of service providers. If there is no evidence to show that psychologists (i.e. not including clinical psychologists) are failing to provide adequate services and/or that psychologists (i.e. not including clinical psychologists) are failing to refer when appropriate, then it appears that the paper is being used to justify a predetermined position potentially cornering off a market by using scaremongering tactics. This approach could possibly be deemed a bit like companies that sell burglar alarms using imagery of criminal types breaking into people's homes to justify their sales.

On the other hand if there is evidence that general psychologists are not referring when appropriate, then a workshop designed to assist identification of referral indicators may be more appropriate than the proposed legislation changes. This approach may improve the services that are being offered in rural areas as well as assisting those services to operate more effectively. The suggested workshop approach appears more inclusive, instead of adding to the divisiveness that sadly has occurred over the last few years. Note: The qualification of being a clinical psychologist does not necessarily ensure adequate service provision.

In regards to protecting the public from inadequate service provision, the proposed legislation changes could advocate for monthly mandatory drug and alcohol testing.

With regard to adding the word Specialist in front of each psychologist's title; I believe this to be unnecessary. If a person is a Clinical Psychologist then they are already a specialist in the area of clinical psychology. If they are Health Psychologists then they are already specialists in the area of Health Psychology and so on.

Elissa Corlett

Registered psychologist

B. Sc(Hons)., M. Psych., FRSSA., MAPS., Dip. Clin. Hyp.