



**Attention: Chair, Psychology Board of Australia**  
**Thomas Schick** to: natboards  
Bcc: NatBoards

11/11/2009 01:56 PM

---

History: This message has been forwarded.

---

Re: Registration of Specialist Titles

Dear Brin,

I would like to bring to your attention something that I consider to be of great importance.

There are 11 Specialist titles proposed, and three of them include "Clinical" in their proposed title. In the case of Clinical Psychology, it refers to the definition of its function, parameters and breadth of service to be provided. This is not the case with, "clinical neuropsychology" and "clinical geropsychology". Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology, Geropsychology, are equivalent specialist designations. Nothing is gained by attaching the adjective "clinical" to neuropsychology and geropsychology, and nothing is lost by not having it.

On the contrary, in my opinion, the unnecessary use of Clinical, muddies the water, and takes away from the each of the specialties, rather than adding to them. Will the public be wiser if we register for Clinical Psychologists, Clinical Neuropsychologists, Clinical Geropsychologists, or if we have Neuropsychologists, Geropsychologists and Clinical Psychologists, as specialist psychologists?

I know what my answer is.

We are at a point where we could make some things better, not worse, that is at least define our roles and specialities better, clearer, to agencies, the general public, and ourselves.

It is important that we leave politics, as far as possible, out of this, including what Universities may choose to call their programmes. This question should not be allowed to be/become a political agenda. In the end nothing is gained by confusion and lack of clarity. Frankly, too, I cannot see any loss to any of the three colleges involved in a clearer, more meaningful, less confusing, terminology used in the description of their specialties.

The way we legislate now, will stay with us, possibly, forever. Let's not stay with mess.

I do not expect this to be a uniformly welcomed suggestion, as we have allowed - supported? - such confusions now for quite some time, but I would like to ask that serious considerations are given by the Board to this issue.

Regards,

Tom Schick  
Clinical and Counselling Psychologist

Thomas Schick  
Clinical Psychologist/Supervisor  
Rod Power Psychology Clinic  
Psychology Department  
Macquarie University NSW 2109

ph: 9850 8000  
fax: 9850 9169