



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Attention: Chair, Psychology Board of Australia (please do not place this submission on the Board website)

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to write to you to express my view on the psychology consultation paper that addresses registration standards. I am currently working at Disability Services Commission where I have been based for the past three years. My job role consists of several facets, including assessment of autism and intellectual disability, early intervention provision for children with autism spectrum disorders, and psychology consultation for individuals with a disability facing various issues (eg. behavioural, life transitions, etc). I completed my Masters in Educational and Developmental Psychology.

The reason I am writing is because I would like to voice concern about the impact of specialist titles on my career as a psychologist. While I have only been working as a psychologist for three years, I, like many others, immediately felt the impact of this current status in several ways. I feel it will continue to impact on many psychologists if the system remains as it is.

Within WA the majority of jobs are advertised for Clinical Psychologists to the exclusion of other specialist titled psychologists. Other factors such as demonstrated skills, years of training and experience, and professional development, are highly important yet overshadowed because of this exclusionary criteria frequently specified in job advertisements. While a degree is important, the skills and competencies acquired when one starts to 'practice' as a psychologist is highly significant.

Upon graduating from my Masters course I was faced with job adverts for a school psychologist, but other than this, not much else. I applied for a job with Disability Services Commission at a time where they began advertising for either Clinical / or Educational and Developmental Psychologists. Historically, this had not been the case. While the Commission has moved forward, other government agencies are yet to follow.

While I have acquired specialist skills during my time at Disability Services Commission, I am still unable to apply for other similar jobs because of the prerequisite for a clinical specialist title. While Clinical Psychologists do hold specialist skills, these can still be recognised without the prerequisite/exclusionary criteria commonly found in job adverts. I also feel as though we should be moving forward towards a multidisciplinary framework, whereby psychologists with differing degrees can effectively work together.

Moreover, it has been difficult for myself to be supervised to obtain specialist title as a 'Educational and Developmental Psychologist'. If a more singular specialist title was created this would make it easier for psychologists to become supervised and acquire specialist skills.

I hope you find this information useful. Thankyou for your time.

Kind regards,

Jessica Pezzaniti

Psychologist