



Consultation paper for national registration of psychologists

Georgina to: natboards

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Bcc: NatBoards

I support the PBA's consultation paper. Clearly, a lot of thought and consultation has gone into the paper. The structure recommended by the PBA will serve the needs of both the profession of psychology and the community that depends on appropriately qualified individuals providing general and specialist psychological services.

The suggested grandfather clauses will assist with the continuity of psychological services, both general and specialist, so the community will not be left with a gap in qualified practitioners. The requirements for supervision to maintain registration will provide a level of safeguard for the community against psychologists who may be at risk of not noticing how their work may be impaired by personal events. The oversight of a psychologist's casework by peers can assist in the early identification and remedy in such events.

As for the pathways to specialist registration, the move towards a doctoral degree is a good idea. However, I would support the retention of alternative pathways for specialist recognition as is currently provided by the APS college system. University study is not the best way for everyone to learn their craft, and financial considerations may be a barrier for otherwise exceptional practitioners in their specialist fields.

The Medicare Assessment Team that assesses qualifications and experience, and creates individual bridging programs for psychologists wishing to attain clinical psychology equivalency is a good model for an alternative pathway. Such a model will also reduce the pressure on universities to provide doctoral places in the short term.

Finally, the generalist and specialist registration scheme will assist public services in recruitment and reclassification of psychologists employed by them. By providing a clear requisite qualification (ie registration as a specialist in that field of psychology), the community will be protected by knowing that public sector psychologists, who are employed as specialists will, indeed, have an externally accredited registration as such.

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