

## **Consultation paper 6 – Limited registration for teaching or research (PBA)**

### **Definition of practice**

*“Any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a psychologist in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct nonclinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.”*

“Now the Board has recognised that there is a need for the registration category Limited registration for teaching a(sic) research to be available to new applicants who intend to engage in the practice of psychology according to the Board’s definition but are not qualified to apply for General or Provisional registration. It is expected that psychologists for whom this registration category will apply will include research PhD candidates, academic psychologists, overseas psychologists intending to undertake research projects or provide psychological education and training in Australia, and others working in the fields of psychological teaching and research.”

### **Some comments**

1. The Board’s definition of practice fails to specify the level of training required. If it is intended to apply only to individuals holding at least a 4-year qualification in psychology, it should say so.
2. The MacMillan Dictionary of Psychology defines Psychology as: “The systematic study of behaviour and the mind in man and animals.” This implies that anyone trained in psychology would inevitably use “their skills and knowledge as a psychologist” in any professional activity involving interacting with people or animals, not only those “working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.”
3. It follows that the Board wishes to require virtually anyone holding a psychology degree to be registered, including, possibly, the Governor-General, State Governors, High Court Judges, University Vice Chancellors, and Commonwealth politicians. The Board does not explain why only people involved in teaching or research are to be singled out and threatened.
4. The Board fails to recognise that not all researchers engaged in psychological teaching or research are trained psychologists. For example, psychology students as part of their training, may receive lectures from specialists who are not trained in psychology (e.g. statisticians, physiologists) and such specialists may also be involved in psychological research projects. Would the Board wish to prohibit this, and if so, why?

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