Competencies Required For Clinical Psychology Endorsement

Clinical psychologists specialise in the assessment, diagnosis, formulation and treatment of cognitive, emotional, behavioural and broader psychological problems and mental illness of reactive, organic, or traumatic origins, using evidence based therapies. The core competencies that must be achieved by an endorsed clinical psychologist, at a level of depth and expertise appropriate to clinical psychology following on from post-graduate training, are:

- a) knowledge of the discipline this includesi. Knowledge of psychological theories and models
- ii. Knowledge of the empirical evidence for the theories and models
- iii. Knowledge of the major methods of inquiry
- iv. Ability to analyse accurately the functions of a clinical psychologist in particular settings
- v. Capacity to work as a scientist practitioner, engaging knowledge in relevant psychological and social areas
- vi. Knowledge of the roles of other professions and the capacity to report to other professionals appropriately and work collaboratively.
- b) ethical, legal and professional matters this includes detailed knowledge and understanding of ethical, legal and professional issues and statutory requirements relevant to clinical psychology:
- i. Conduct consistent with the code of ethics and relevant statutory requirments
- ii. Understanding of how ethical principles and relevant statutory requirements are used to guide professional practice
- iii. Clear and consistent use of informed consent procedures
- iv. Knowledge of limits of competence and personal limitations that may affect work with clients.
- c) psychological assessment and measurement
- 1. Competent to administer, interpret and integrate a range of assessment devices including:
- i. clinical interviews
- ii. behavioural observations and assessments
- iii. tests of intellectual, igence, _attentional, and executive/adaptive/social, and memory functioning
- iv. appraisals of cognitive functioning more broadly, including use of neuropsychological measures
- v. personality tests and assessments of emotional and behavioural disturbances
- vi. educational attainment assessment

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- 2. Demonstrated competency in the following areas:
- i. Selection of appropriate assessment techniques or instruments with proper consideration of issues of reliability and validity
- ii. Knowledge of and competency with interview and developmental case history.
- iii. Clinical interviews to include:
- · Developmental and family history
- Psychosocial functioning
- Cognitive and neuropsychological functioning
- · Behavioural functioning
- Biological considerations (e.g. medical conditions/pain, organic conditions, drug and alcohol usage)
- Mental State Examination (where appropriate)
- iv. Psychometric, <u>some neuropsychological</u>, and psychodiagnostic testing (where appropriate)
- v. Behavioural observation and functional analysis (where appropriate)
- vi. Knowledge of psychopathology and critical understanding of the use of various diagnostic classification systems (DSM and ICD)

vii. Knowledge of psychopharmacology and neurotoxicology

- 3. Competent in formulation procedures, including information from context of referral, assessment information, diagnoses: providing the guidelines and framework for intervention with demonstrated knowledge of the implications of different forms of intervention for the case. d) intervention strategies
- 1. Competent in intervention procedures as demonstrated by ability to work as a scientist practitioner to:
- i. Draw from appropriate research literature
- ii. Review documents of departmental and professional practice relevant to the intervention
- iii. Formulate and test hypotheses
- iv. Draw from knowledge of a range of intervention procedures
- v. Design or select appropriate intervention
- vi. Evaluate outcome appropriately
- 2. Skilful application of intervention processes:
- i. Understands intervention processes (engagement, maintenance, termination, etc)
- ii. Forms a positive working alliance with a variety of clients
- iii. Able to utilise psychotherapy and/or behaviour therapy with individuals, couples, families and groups
- iv. Provide consultative service to other professionals and carers regarding clinical psychological problems

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- e) research and evaluation this includes the systematic identification, critical appraisal and application of relevant research evidence to clinical psychology
- i. Ability to develop research and evaluation and report outcomes
- ii. Capacity to understand evidence and appropriately handle data
- iii. Ability to synthesise research literature and apply to practice
- f) communication and interpersonal relationships this includes the ability to communicate in written and oral format from a psychological perspective in a style appropriate to a variety of different audiences, and to interact professionally with a wide range of client groups and other professionals
- i. Ability to communicate adequately with clients, within the profession, with other professionals, and with the general public
- ii. Capacity to appear as an expert witness, including knowledge of Court systems, presentation in Court, and relevant policies and practices
- iii. Ability to write adequate <u>clinical</u> psychological reports <u>on emotional, behavioural and</u> <u>cognitive functioning</u> for a range of audiences
- iv. Ability to write adequate <u>clinical</u> psychological reports <u>on emotional, behavioural and</u> <u>cognitive functioning</u> for the legal system
- v. Ability to keep appropriate records and case notes in accordance with the requirements of the professional setting
- g) working within a cross-cultural context this includes demonstrating core competencies to adequately practise with clients from cultures different from the psychologist's own h) practice across the lifespan this involves demonstrating the core competencies with clients in childhood, adolescence, adulthood and late adulthood, as relevant to the work of a clinical psychologist in the context in which the psychologist is employed. psychologist is employed.

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