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**Psychology Board of Australia**

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**Re: Public consultation paper 26: Area of practice endorsements**

Dear Board members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on the definition and guidelines for counselling psychology.

I am a counselling psychologist in private practice and also an adjunct associate professor at Curtin University. Between 2001 and 2013 I was the Director of the Counselling Psychology PhD and Master's programmes. I have also sat on the accreditation panels of several programmes across the country. Thus, I have a detailed familiarity with the curriculum requirements as well as the actual taught curriculum across Australia.

I am writing to provide support for the revised definition and competency statements that have been agreed to by both the *APS College of Counselling Psychologists* and the *Association of Counselling Psychologists*. The current definition by the Board does not reflect the curriculum, teaching, or practice of counselling psychologists in Australia. Thus, it misinforms the public about the competencies and scope of practice for counselling psychology. In addition, the definition is not aligned with international competency statements for counselling psychology. Both the APS and the ACP have tried repeatedly to address this with the Board.

With the current review of Area of Practice Endorsements, it would seem that this is an opportune time for the Board to revise their definition in line with both international descriptions of counselling psychology, the accreditation standards in Australia, the curriculum in Australia and the actual practice of counselling psychologists in Australia, the US, the UK, South Africa, and New Zealand.

Yours Sincerely,

Adjunct Associate Professor Jan Grant