

CHRISTIAN GILL  
COUNSELLING & CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST  
14 DOURO PLACE, WEST PERTH WA 6005  
0437 064 587 CHRISTIANGILL@HOTMAIL.COM  
ABN 55838056302 PROVIDER# 2776664B

Psychology Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au  
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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 of Counselling Psychology. I wish to give my support for the revised competency statements provided to you by the Association of Counselling Psychologists and the APS College of Counselling Psychologists. Having read their updated description and list of competency statements, it is my opinion that this revision more accurately reflects the nature of our training, research, and practice in the specialised domain of Counselling Psychology.

Briefly, I am a practitioner with approximately 15-years clinical experience. This includes having worked with organisations specialising in the psychological assessment of treatment of families affected by childhood sexual abuse, with war trauma survivors and their families and on an inpatient psychiatric unit for parents having severe mental health disorders and their infants. I currently work with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support and in private practice, where I specialise in the fields of Perinatal and Infant-Parent Mental Health.

In any given week, I will assess and treat patients having a range of issues and mental health disorders and who present in a range of contexts. This includes working with patients having diagnoses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, PTSD, depression, anxiety and personality disorders, and doing so in individual, couples therapy and sometimes family therapy formats. I am also regularly involved in conducting psychological assessments for the Children's and Family Courts including in respect of parenting capacity and issues of child protection.

The inclusion of competency statements relating to mental health assessment, case formulation, and evidence-based treatment (including couple therapy) is in my opinion, a far better reflection of both the postgraduate training I received in Counselling Psychology and the nature of my clinical work. I would be pleased to discuss my views further and can be contacted on the details provided.

Kind Regards

  
Christian Gill  
Counselling and Clinical Psychologist