



Canada, February 25th, 2016

Psychology Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

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

Dear Board members,

This letter of support is written on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Section on Counselling Psychology of the Canadian Psychological Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the definition of counselling psychology and extend our support for the revised competency statements by the *Association of Counselling Psychologists* and the *APS College of Counselling Psychologists*. After reviewing the updated description and list of competency statements, we believe that this document reflects the nature of training, research, and practice in the specialized domain of counselling psychology.

We note a number of parallels between this definition and the one adopted by the Canadian Psychological Association (put forth by the Section on Counselling Psychology). Similarities include scope of practice, populations served, psychological issues addressed, and lifespan development focus within the domain of counselling psychology. Moreover, after educating ourselves about the limited scope of practice being proposed for counselling psychologists, we wish to affirm a few domains that are part of the specialty areas' training, research, and practice; and thus part of the competencies of counselling psychologists across many parts of the world. These areas include, but are not limited to, assessment, diagnosis, case-formulation, and evidence-based care for psychological disorders, including more complex, chronic, or severe cases.

Such a definition is critical to the ongoing development of counselling psychology, internationally, and within respective countries. Thus, we wholly support the adoption of a counselling psychology specific definition and related list of competencies within an Australian context. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Sincerely,

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Chair-Elect

Section on Counselling Psychology of the Canadian Psychological Association

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