

Mark D Turner

KINGSFORD
NSW 2032

29th February 2016

AHPRA - consultation

Response to the Psychology Board of Australia's consultation paper - Area of Practice Endorsements

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Sydney Branch of Counselling Psychologists have brought to my attention that the National College has proposed amendments to the competencies required for counselling psychology endorsement.

I am writing to strongly support these changes.

Having practiced as a psychologist in a variety of public and private health contexts for over 16 years I was gravely disappointed by the changes implemented since the national registration process in 2010.

The ensuing definition and associated competencies for counselling psychology devalued our shared expertise, training and unique contributions in working with mental health disorders and public health promotion - positioning counselling psychology as a generalist area of practice (p.24 of the attached consultation paper).

I became a UK chartered Counselling Psychologist in 2000 - a status and level of expertise that was recognised by Sydney South West Area Health Service from 2002-2007. However, myself and many hundreds of other psychologists were relegated and sidelined soon after this period.

I support the attached document developed by the CoP College in conjunction with counselling psychology program coordinators. I believe the amended definition of counselling psychology and associated competencies more accurately reflects the teaching and practice of counselling psychology in Australia and is aligned with recognised international standards for counselling psychology - an aspect I am deeply versed in.

Regards,



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