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Psychology Board of Australia
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Dear Board Members,

RE Public consultation paper 26: Area of Practice Endorsement.

It is with some concern that I consider that I have to write this letter in support for the revised competency statements provided to you by the Association of Counselling Psychologists and the APS College of Counselling Psychologists.

I currently work in Western Australia as a Counselling Psychologist for the Department of Child Protection and Family Support. I work in Tier 2 Residential Care, across two homes supporting the Managers and Residential Care Workers (RCWs) who provide 24 hour therapeutic care for 4 children in each home (totalling 8 children). These children are amongst the most highly traumatised in the state and have been through a number of placements, where the carers are unable to cope with their behaviours. The young people have been subject to sexual, physical abuse and neglect and exhibit a range of mental health and intellectual issues, further including a range of behavioural issues.

Part of my role is to provide assessment, formulation diagnosis and psychotherapy for the individuals within the home and the broader family and social systems that the children interact with. Further providing advice and debriefing to the RCWs to assist them to provide a healing environment for the children. I work with and alongside Clinical Psychologists who do exactly the same job and have the same responsibilities as I do. They are paid exactly the same rate, at the same public service level. We provide professional and emotional support for each other, in our regular fortnightly meetings. Essentially in my organisation the distinction between Clinical and Counselling Psychology is irrelevant to the job we do.

I have read the updated description and list of competency statements, which I have attached and it is my opinion, that this provision more accurately reflects the nature of the training, research and practice in the specialist area of Counselling psychology.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Morley

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