Dear Psychology Board of Australia, 26th October 2018

I am very pleased to see the current public consultation and review of ‘Area of practice endorsements registration standard, October 2018.

I strongly support and am in favour of Option 2 – New AoPE standard and guidelines. I am also very pleased to see the Board is in agreement of Option 2 and recommending the proposed AoPE standard, at Attachment B, to Ministerial Council for approval.

This is a good opportunity for the 60% of all psychologists with a generalist status to finally have a pathway to an area of practice endorsement. I personally have been disheartened by the lack of pathway opportunities for an area of practice endorsement. Further education, whilst recognising expertise in different fields is a positive step. The introduction of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) requirements was supposed to fill the gap beyond tertiary studies, ensuring best practice in the field. Like many professions, this has led to continued learning and the delivery of evidence based treatment.

On a personal note, during the period of transition to a National framework and psychology registration body, I certainly didn’t realize the implications of not applying for an AoP endorsement. My priority at the time was raising my twin babies whilst nursing my mother through a terminal illness. The personal and professional repercussions however have been spectacularly disastrous. The argument within the profession is not about a 4 + 2 pathway > Master > Doctoral studies. A significant number of existing psychologists with an AoP endorsement do not hold a Master’s degree. I however do have a Master’s Degree and more! My tertiary studies include the following:

* Diploma of Teaching
* Bachelor of Education
* Graduate Diploma of Psychology
* Master of Counselling Psychology
* Postgraduate Certificate of Organisational Behaviour (Psychology)
* And about to complete a Post graduate Certificate in Business

I also have close to 20 years’ experience working as a school psychologist, private practice, psychological assessments and intervention, psychological test development, publishing and psychometric analyses.

The current standards Option 1, do not give me access to an AoP endorsement. So, the current standards Option 1, are entirely flawed. How can a profession not recognise my tertiary studies, experience and expertise in the field of psychological practice? My experience includes (but is not limited to):

* Invited member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) Test and Testing Expert Committee Group (TTEG) since 2016 and current;
* APS and International conference paper presentations;
* Invited guest speaker to numerous APS College groups as an expert in psychological assessments including autism, personality, forensic and education;
* Clinical program manager and service delivery for the Department of Defence’s Security Recruitment project, consisting of an in-depth psychological assessment battery, interview, report and recommendations on National Security personnel;
* Lead psychologist at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) for 11 years, consulting and leading psychological test development projects including the Autism Detection Early Childhood (ADEC), Psychprofiler, Coping Scale for Adults 2nd Edition, Adolescent Coping Scale 2nd Edition, ACER Verbal, Abstract and Numerical Reasoning tests, and the Six Star Wellbeing Survey.
* Training psychologists across all current AoP on psychological assessments – including clinical and educational psychologists.
* Lead psychologist training government agencies on the use of psychological assessments, including Department of Defence, Australian Security Intelligence Office, Attorney General’s Office, Department of Education and Training (NSW, WA, QLD, Victoria), Independent Schools Australia, Catholic Education (NSW, QLD, WA, Victoria).

I reiterate, I have a Master’s degree and under the current AoP guidelines, I am unable to gain an AoP endorsement. I have been told the only option under the current guidelines is to complete a Master’s degree. This is just not possible. I will however gladly and happily complete a bridging course and supervision.

I am able to provide countless testimonials of my capabilities, competencies and expertise in the field of psychological assessments. A vote for Option B means experienced and expert psychologists’ such as myself are provided with a pathway to an AoP endorsement and therefore meet the objective of providing the members of our community the best psychological care and practice.

I thank you for your time and look forward to a sensible outcome and resolution.

Kind Regards,

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Eirini Lammi,

Registered Psychologist