

14th April 2011

SUBMISSION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE:
INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF
HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION BY AHPRA

I have worked as a psychologist in private practice since 1987. For approximately 15 years prior to that I was a lecturer in Psychology & Human Development at the University of South Australia. I am a member of a number of different professional associations (IPPP, A.S.H., ANSA, ISNR) but have never joined the Australian Psychological Society. In fact, I am not motivated to join the APS given the failure of that organization to support psychologists and their involvement in the development of the current process. In South Australia I am a member of the South Australian Health Practitioners Tribunal.

I have worked in the field of psychology for almost my entire career (since 1971) and for the past 24 years worked in “clinical psychology” in a very busy private practice.

In short, I am appalled at the present 2 tier system for psychologists. I am also appalled at the process of granting clinical endorsements which takes almost no account of a person’s clinical and professional experience in psychology. There are many well qualified, highly experienced and extremely good psychology practitioners who are being disenfranchised. In my experience, morale amongst psychologists is at an all time low.

I urgently request that the Senate Committee review the operation of the PBA in order to enable the introduction of a system that continues to encourage professional development but also appropriately recognizes the skills and expertise that many psychologists have developed over many years of ongoing professional development and experience.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy C Hill (PhD)