

# **PENNY FOX**

**B.A.Hons(S.A.),M.A.(Couns.Psych.)(Natal)  
Specialist Counselling Psychologist**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to place on record my concerns with regard to various issues emerging subsequent to the National Registration of Psychologists:

There is no doubt that a single National Body has been a positive move but it is even more essential that it makes our profession more accessible and understandable to the public. The entries on the AHPRA/PBA register are not only incomplete i.e. qualification, but confusing as under Specialties I have “none”, but then I am endorsed as a specialist Counselling Psychologist further down. I am not the only one.

It was my understanding that the establishment of the one body was going to remove duplication. The requirement that our Medicare related CPD must be registered with APS surprised me as I was of the understanding that the PBA would be dealing with Medicare issues. This must be of particular importance for non-APS members, as in addition to registering their Medicare related CPD with APS they also have to register all their CPD with PBA.

Furthermore the requirement of a half page reflection for every hour of CPD implies that we are not responsible professionals and need to prove the usefulness of our selected CPD. Since most of us are likely to be time poor, not only are we unlikely to select meaningless CPD, this extra, somewhat insulting requirement is onerous, and duplicates as attendance should be suffice.

Our core work is caring for clients in an ethical professional manner. As Psychologists responsible for the wellbeing of our clients and ourselves, mandatory CPD is not what drives our attendance at workshops, supervision etc, but is an integral part of our practise as professional psychologists. Well that is how it was conveyed in my training and subsequent years of practise. The recording of all this involves hours of administration and takes valuable time away from the actual CPD activities and our core practise. Simplify please.

Remembering we are professionals.

Yours faithfully

Penny M.C. Fox (MAPS)  
Specialist Counselling Psychologist