

The Australian Psychological Society Ltd

APS College of Counselling Psychologists

Submission to the

Senate Community Affairs Committee

Inquiry into the National Registration and
Accreditation Scheme for Doctors and
Other Health Workers

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The APS College of Counselling Psychologist supports the submission of the Australian Psychological Society on the proposed National Registration and Accreditation scheme as stated below

1. National registration should be administered by a National Board. Areas of psychological speciality should be endorsed rather than named in the legislation.
2. Accreditation of post-graduate courses should remain in the control of the professional bodies; in this instance the Australian Psychological Society, so that professional standards in the training of students is kept in the hands of the profession itself rather than with the Government of the day.

The College of Counselling Psychologists has an interest in this issue because it represents one distinct specialty: minimum six year trained psychologists who specialise in the provision of psychological therapy.

Counselling Psychologists provide psychological assessment and psychotherapy for individuals, couples, families, and groups and treat a wide range of psychological problems and mental health disorders. Counselling psychologists use a variety of evidence-based therapeutic strategies and have particular expertise in tailoring these to meet the specific and varying needs of clients. Counselling psychologists work in a range of settings including private practice, government and non-government organisations, hospitals, and educational institutions.

Counselling psychologists as a group work across a range of sectors and are therefore well placed in the community to impact on the mental health of a diverse client group. We consider that the public is protected if we have an input into maintaining the quality of relevant educational courses, specification of domains of competency, required professional development and ethical behaviour. This is happening under the existing system, and we therefore submit that the new system should essentially continue it.