



## **COLLEGE OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

27 January 2010

Dear Colleagues

The National Committee felt that it might be useful to you to try to summarise a number of issues and activities occurring.

The Psychology Board of Australia (PBA) has now made its final submission to the Ministerial Council. This submission recommended that psychologists be given the option for endorsement in the nine specialties that are covered by the Colleges of APS. The PBA's submission has defined the credentialing required for endorsement. This credentialing requires more training than is currently required by the Colleges. Endorsement will allow those psychologists who meet the criteria to be listed on the National Register as being endorsed in that area of specialty. So, while this is not as substantial as being registered in a specialty, endorsement will allow psychologists to show their area of specialty, though at this time, it is still not known what this will entail. The Ministerial Council will make its decisions on the Board's proposal in March.

Many of you will have heard that a blog site has been established by Judy Hyde. There has been a great deal of discussion on this site about National Registration. This site has also been a forum for some clinical psychologists to also express various concerns about the relationship between clinical psychologists and APS. There has been much discussion about clinical psychologists resigning in mass from the APS to register their dissatisfaction and also some discussion about forming a new professional organisation. The National Committee continues to monitor this discussion group.

While we recognise that members can resign for whatever reasons, we hope that members will continue to support the College and its efforts to promote our profession within the Society and the wider community.

There is also a great deal of activity happening within Western Australia by specialist psychologists there. The College is also monitoring this activity and supporting College members in their efforts regarding retaining their specialist title.

The Executive Director of APS is aware of the tensions that exists with some College members and has arranged to have information sessions for members in NSW, Victoria and Western Australia. I will also be attending the session in Sydney. I encourage members in those states to come to these sessions to be able to discuss directly with the Executive Director any concerns and also to hear from her firsthand of the APS' position regarding the PBA's recommendations.

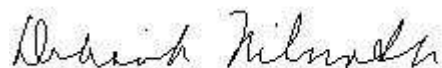
The National Committee will be meeting in February or March to continue its work on what the College needs to do to work with the PBA and APS in supporting clinical psychologists. We will be considering whether and how the College needs to revise its criteria for membership to be better aligned with the proposed PBA endorsement criteria as well as developing a plan for continuing to improve the College's working relationship with the APS Board.

This is a time of change and we recognise that change brings with it anxiety. Please know that the National Committee remains focused on its objectives:

- To focus on and promote clinical psychology practice
- To maintain practice standards and quality assurance in clinical psychology
- To encourage and support the education and continuing professional development of clinical psychologists
- To represent, promote and advance psychology within the context of improving community wellbeing and scientific knowledge

As always, on behalf of the National Committee, we appreciate your continued support of the College.

Yours truly



Dr Deborah Wilmoth, PsyD  
Chair