

OVERVIEW

- Health Practitioners Act
- New structure
 - Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC)
 - Psychology Board of Australia (PBA)
- Specialist title v endorsement
- Summary

HEALTH PRACTITIONERS ACT

- Health Practitioner Regulation National Act (2009)
- S3(1) To establish a national registration and accreditation scheme for –
 - (a) The regulation of health practitioners

S 2 The objectives ... are

- (a) ...the protection of the public;
- (b) ... facilitate workforce mobility;
- (c) ... facilitate provision of education;
- (d) ... assessment of overseas trained ...;
- (e) ... facilitate access to services ...; and
- (f) ... development of ... workforce

NOTE

- Not to advance the interests of psychologists or the profession
- Implication

- PBA must act
 - “in the public interest”
 - Represent the public, not constituents (State or psychologists)
 - Duties of the director of a body corporate
 - ✦ Criminal offence

BUT

- PBA’s view: it is in the public interest to look after the interests of psychologists
 - the whole body of psychologists
- But, not specific factions



REALITY

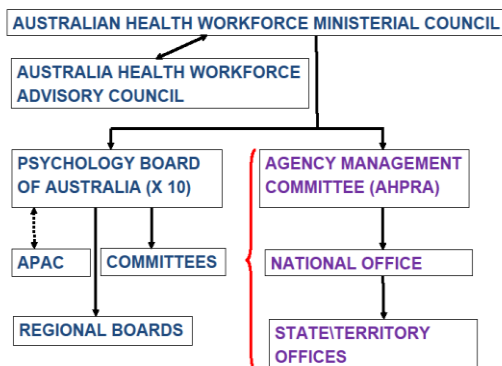
- About 26 000 psychologists in Au
- Accept that some things may not go your way
- Compromises will have to be made

BENEFITS

- Protect title
 - **Psychologist**
 - **Psychology**
- Symbols that imply ...
- Certification
- No practice protection
 - Psychological tests?



NEW STRUCTURE



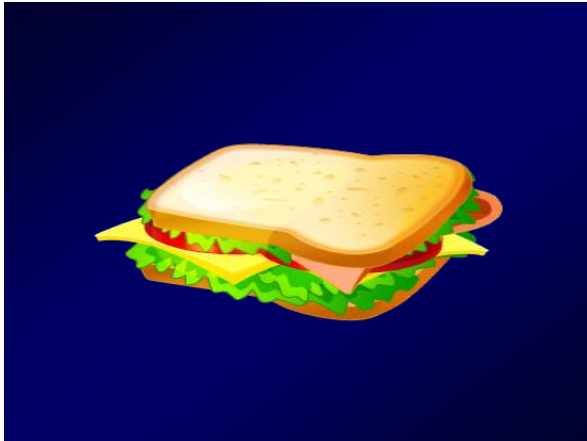
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

- Health ministers of all jurisdictions
- Can give directions to
 - Agency
 - Boards

IN RESPECT OF POLICY

“... a National Board must comply with a direction given to it by the Ministerial Council [s 11(6)].





FUNCTIONS OF MC

- Approves standards
 - Registration
 - Endorsement
 - Specialist title (medical model)
- May give advice re accreditation standards

- Balance workforce supply with public quality and safety

PBA

- Members appointed on 31/08/09
- Unpaid volunteers
- 8 practitioner members
 - Member from WA

NOTE

- Not representative for WA

- 4 community members
 - ✦ Social worker
 - ✦ Physiotherapist
 - ✦ Nurse
 - ✦ Ombudsman

FUNCTIONS OF PBA

FUNCTIONS	BODY
Registration*	PBA
Regulation	PBA
Accreditation	APAC = PBA + APS
Profession	APS

REGISTRATION

- Register psychologists
 - Current psychologists, registrars and supervisees will be transferred to new register
 - 5th and 6th years students register as provisionally registered psychologists

- Requirements when renewing registration
 - Pay fee (will increase)
 - From 2011 at end November

- Declaration each year
 - ✦ Not impaired
 - ✦ Recency of practice
 - ✦ CPD and PII
 - ✦ Criminal offences and complaints
 - ✦ No restriction by Medicare
 - ✦ No restriction by employer

SPECIALIST TITLE

DISTINGUISH

- WA Act
 - Specialist title
- National Act
 - Endorsement
 - Specialist title

WA SPECIALIST TITLE

S29. REGISTRATION AS SPECIALISTS

(2) The requirements for registration as a specialist are that the applicant —
(a) is registered under section 26; and
(b) satisfies ... the requirements prescribed by the regulations ...

R7 SPECIALIST TITLES

- (a) clinical
- (b) clinical neuro
- (c) counselling
- (d) educational and developmental
- (e) forensic
- (f) organisational
- (g) sport

NOTE

- Not
 - Health
 - Community

R8. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIALTY

(h) has completed a post graduate degree in the specialty accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (ACAP) ... of not less than 2 years' duration; and

(i) has successfully completed a period of supervised practical experience in the practice of the specialty of not less than 2 years' duration; and

(j) is working in the area of the specialty.

SECTION 29(6)

Subject to this Act, registration of a psychologist as a specialist confers on that person the right to carry on in the State the practice of the specialty under the title or titles ... under which the specialty may be practised.

NOTE

- No protection of title as such
 - No penalty clause
- Therefore does not prohibit non-qualified psychologists from using it
- But that is unprofessional conduct
 - WA Board has taken disciplinary action

- No provision in respect of employers or 3rd parties
- No separate register – one fee
- Can call oneself a, e.g., clinical psychologist

NATIONAL ACT

- Endorsement and specialist title

ENDORSEMENT

98 (1) A National Board ... may ... endorse the registration of a ... [registered psychologist] ... as being qualified to practice in an area of practice if the practitioner -

- (a) ...
 - (i) an approved qualification;
 - (ii) another qualification that ... is substantially equivalent ... and
- (b) Complies with an approved standard relevant to endorsement.

QUALIFICATONS

- D + 1 year supervision by PBA
- M + 2 years supervision
- Under control of the PBA
 - Supervisors will have to be PBA accredited
 - Complete training course

98(2) An endorsement ... must state the approved area of practice to

- (a) which the endorsement relates; and
- (b) any conditions applicable to the practice by the registered ... [psychologist]

AREAS

- (a) clinical
- (b) clinical neuro
- (c) counselling
- (d) educational and developmental
- (e) forensic
- (f) organisational
- (g) sport and exercise
- (h) community
- (i) health

NOTE

- Will be able to call oneself a clinical psychologist
- No separate register
- May be an additional fee
- Some protection of the title ...

SECTION 119

- (1) A registered health practitioner must not knowingly ...
- (a) Claim to hold a type of registration or endorsement under this Law that the practitioner does not hold

CONSEQUENCES

- (2) A contravention of subsection (1) does not constitute an offence but may constitute behaviour for which ... conduct ... action may be taken.

IF ANOTHER PERSON MAKES FALSE CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF PSYCHOLOGIST

- Will be an offence with a penalty of up to \$30 000 if individual and \$60 000 if a body corporate

SPECIALIST TITLE

- Separate registers – additional fee
- Eligibility
 - Qualification
 - s58(a): “an approved qualification for the speciality”

S 57(1)(b)

- Supervised practice
 - Required by an approved registration standard
- Examination
 - Required by an approved registration standard

APPROVED STANDARD

- Set by a specialist College
 - I.e. the profession

SPECIALIST COLLEGES

- Independent legal entities
 - Boards of directors
 - Staff
- Expensive
- Accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC)
 - Equivalent of APAC

- **E.g., Psychiatry**

- After a comprehensive review, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) has extended the accreditation of the education and training programs of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to December 2011.

TO

- Practice as a medical specialist must:
 - Pass the examination and be
 - On specialist register
- Get Medicare rebate
 - Above plus
 - Member of College

- Can call oneself a “specialist ...”
- Title is protected
 - Individual
 - 3rd party
- Penalty clause: s116(1)(d)

PREREQUISITES

- Must first qualify as a general practitioner and
- Work for a minimum two years:
 - General medical or surgical

TO SIT EXAMINATION

- 5-years on job training and
- Supervised practice and
- Seminars

5 YEARS TRAINING

WORK IN

- An accredited tertiary training unit
- As registrar
 - Paid by Department of Health
 - Supervised and trained by consultants

CONSULTANTS

- Specialists working
 - 50% University or Research Unit
 - 50% Department of Health
- Employed and by Department of Health

SUPERVISED WORK

- 12 month rotations in general adult
- 6 month rotations
 - old age
 - child and adolescent
 - consultation liaison
 - rural
 - addiction medicine
 - community
 - forensic

- Sub-specialty may require 12 months
- Case write ups

SEMINARS

- On a series of topics
- Usually over 2 year period
- Today usually part of postgraduate degree
- Offered by
 - Academics working in unit
 - External experts

- Seminar topics cover
 - Advanced clinical skills
 - Leadership training
 - Ethics
 - Research
 - Psychology
 - Psychopharmacology
- Thesis as part of degree

EXAMINATION

- Set by College
- Components
 - Written (Theoretical)
 - Practical (Clinical)
 - ❖ actors
 - ❖ international experts as moderators

SUMMARY

- College runs the training programs
 - Sometime in conjunction with University
- Take examinations down
- Board will register and administer those who meet qualifications

APS COLLEGES

- Part of APS, i.e., not independent units
- Not accredited as such
- Postgraduate courses are approved for membership to Colleges

FUTURE

- Colleges may have to restructure
- Will need to wait for the “national criteria”
- May have to be more specific

- Child and adolescent
- Corrections
- Gero
- Court work

SUMMARY

	Endorsement	WA Specialist	National Specialist
Call self a registrar/clinical psychologist?	Yes	Yes	Specialist clinical psychologist*
Separate register	No	No	Yes (additional fee)
Qualification stipulated	Yes	Yes	No, determined by College
Minimum qualification	Doctoral or MPsy	MPsy	Determined by College
Title protection	No, but ...	No, but ...	Yes
Unprofessional	Yes (Act)	Yes (Policy)	Yes
Penalty for third party	Yes	No	Yes

- Better protection of the public
- Whole of Au gets slightly better system than we have in WA
- Cost is that we will after three years not be able to call ourselves specialists
- Unless we have specialist titles under the National Act, if that materialises

THANKS

- Any questions?
- <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/>