



Psychologists and National Registration

WA Parliament passed the Health Regulation National Law Bill on 19th August 2010, allowing the 9 health professions in WA to enter the National Registration Scheme, around 18th October. The concerns regarding the loss of specialist title registration for Psychologists was again raised in the Legislative Council of Parliament, but alas no changes were made to allow us to retain this registration in WA, which we have had for over 30 years. When specialist Psychologists come under the scheme they will be “endorsed” by the Psychology Board of Australia to work in speciality areas. For GPs and other medical specialists referring their patients to Psychologists, you will need to look for Psychologists who are “endorsed” to practice in a speciality area to know that they have post-graduate training and supervision. Psychologists who are currently registered in one of the 7 speciality areas in WA (Clinical Psychologist, Counselling Psychologist, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Educational and Developmental Psychologist, Forensic Psychologist, Organisational Psychologist and Sports Psychologist), will still be able to use their specialist titles for 3 years. We hope when the registration process can be reviewed again, that our Psychology Board will be in a position to request specialist registration for our postgraduate trained and supervised psychologists. The newly formed Australian College of Specialist Psychologists will continue to have discussions with the Health Ministers and with our Psychology Board over the next 3 years to consider specialist registration for our profession. We wish to also thank members of the medical profession who supported us during the campaign to maintain specialist registration in WA.

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