

Dear Psychology Board,

The *Australian College of Specialist Psychologists* has received a number of emails regarding concerns about the PBA register of qualifications for endorsed Psychologists. Several concerns have been raised which we would like to share with you and ask for a response.

1. Western Australian Psychologists who held specialist title registration in WA until October 2010 are concerned that their specialist titles are not noted or listed anywhere on the PBA register. WA specialists have been assured and guaranteed by our Health Minister (Minister Hames) and the PBA that we can use our specialist titles until 2013. It is therefore essential that this is noted on the PBA register in some way until then.

The ACSP would recommend obtaining the WA register to get names of those who held specialist titles until October 2010 and noting against these psychologists on the PBA register, for example, “**Holder of WA Clinical Psychologist specialist title**” .

This is not a minor issue for Western Australian specialist psychologists as we campaigned very hard for 6 months with the WA Health Minister and the PBA, and in turn with other Health Ministers to retain this right. The PBA register needs to honour this process on behalf of WA specialist title psychologists.

2. Many people do not feel that the way their degrees have been entered onto the register has been accurate and there appears to be a lot of variation in the way degrees are listed on the register. Is there a way for individuals to change/update their register, which does not involve a lot of paper work? We understand this is a new process, therefore wish to assist with making this step of register listing, as simple and least time consuming for everyone as possible.
3. Can the PBA register please have a standard format which clearly shows undergraduate and postgraduate training and in the particular the area of speciality training done at post graduate level i.e. clinical psychology, counselling psychology etc. This is essential for referrers to, and consumers of our services.

The above issues are taken very seriously by Western Australian specialist (endorsed) psychologists, particularly because WA lost its specialist registration, which as you know, was the only level of registration in Australia which met international training standards. With only generalist level of registration (which is significantly below international training standards), there needs to remain some recognition of the system we had, and one which we will continue to fight for again under specialist registration in the future.

Sincerely,

Jillian Horton

President: *The Australian College of Specialist Psychologists*