



THIS SUBMISSION IS MADE BY THE COUNCIL OF PSYCHOLOGISTS REGISTRATION BOARDS OF AUSTRALASIA INC IN RELATION TO THE CONSULTATION PAPER ON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIALISTS WITHIN THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS. IT RESULTS FROM CONSULTATIONS AMONGST THE BOARDS AND PRESENTS THEIR UNITED VIEW.

If you have any queries on these responses please contact the Executive Officer:

Ms Jayne Wilson, 03 62249331 or jayne@regboardstas.com.au

CPRB believes it is in the public interest for a mechanism to be in place that allows information about a practitioner's specialist qualifications to be declared. It therefore supports the endorsement proposal. CPRB's view is that endorsement of specialties should be regulated, to prevent non-qualified practitioners from 'holding themselves out' as having specialist titles. Endorsement presents an opportunity to regulate titles so that the public is fully informed about the extent and type of qualifications a practitioner possesses. The CPRB supports the National Board having powers to recommend standards for endorsement.

The CPRB supports the principle that the criteria for recognition should be based on existing qualifications and standards already in place within the profession.

The CPRB supports the principle that endorsements should be made by the Registration process for the purpose of Registration ie. protection of the public. It therefore supports the idea that it should not necessarily relate to titles used in an industrial context.

CPRB supports that 'qualifications standards' should represent those requirements for an endorsement of title. This will allow proper scrutiny of international qualifications and consideration of other approved training, in making a judgement regarding possession of appropriate specialist qualifications.

CPRB is concerned about 'area of need' provisions. Whilst it understands the issue, there needs to be a balance between need and safety. The ultimate decision on individual registrations should rest with the National Board and not be able to be overridden by Ministers.

CPRB supports continuing competence for specialists but questions the need for a generic requirement, rather than the preferred option of each Board setting down discipline specific requirements

CPRB supports cross-profession consultation in relation to proposals by any Board to recommend a new speciality to Ministerial council.

CPRB supports the Specific Registration titles provided in the discussion paper. In particular, it is pleased that 'Provisional registration' is available, as this is highly relevant to Psychology.