



Media release

1 December 2010

Health and Community Psychology Endorsements Approved

Community and Health psychologists will soon have access to area of practice endorsements that recognise their specific expertise.

The Psychology Board of Australia today confirmed that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has recently approved the two new area of practice endorsements for psychologists. These add to the seven area of practice endorsements approved by Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010.

The two new area of practice endorsements now line up the nine 'specialties' previously recognised by most international jurisdictions with advanced psychology recognition of areas of practice and with the Colleges of the Australian Psychological Society.

The nine area of practice endorsements are: clinical psychology, community psychology, counselling psychology, forensic psychology, health psychology, clinical neuropsychology, organisational psychology, sport and exercise psychology and educational and developmental psychology.

Psychology Board of Australia Chair, Professor Brin Grenyer, said the Board was pleased with the decision of Australia's Health Ministers because granting these two additional area of practice endorsements was in the public interest.

"Health psychologists have additional qualifications that contribute to effective treatments to support multidisciplinary care of physical health conditions, including lifestyle diseases such as diabetes which include behavioural and lifestyle issues," he said.

"Community psychologists have additional qualifications in taking whole of community psychological approaches to health, such as specialisation in indigenous psychology and disaster response," he said.

Professor Grenyer said the Ministers' decision recognised the nine areas of expertise in the psychology profession and aligns the Australian psychology profession with international benchmarks.

The Board thanked stakeholders who provided feedback on the Board's proposal to seek approval on this issue from Ministerial Council.

The Board is now revising its Area of practice registration standard to reflect the two newly recognised areas of practice. The revised registration standard must be considered and approved by Ministerial Council before psychologists can apply for the new area of practice endorsements. When this has been done, the Board will update the necessary forms and guidelines so Australian psychologists can apply for the new area of practice endorsements. The Board expects this to take place early in 2011.

Transition provisions will be necessary to facilitate the transition to area of practice endorsements for community and health psychology. The Board expects these to reflect the provisions supporting the transition to the previous seven areas of practice (see <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/FAQ-and-Fact-Sheets.aspx> for details of existing transition provisions). The Board will update these provisions to reflect the new area of practice endorsements after these have been approved by Ministerial Council.

For more information

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