

My name is Neil Gilbert and I have been a practising psychologist in Victoria for approx. 35 years. I have in the past been listed as a "clinical psychologist " by the Vic. Registration Board which was operating at the time. Over that period of time I have done numerous courses in various areas of psychological practice. However with the new Registration Board I have been denied classification as a "Clinical" psychologist. It is my opinion that my many years of practice and various courses I have done make me more qualified than a recently graduated "clinical psychologist". Surely a "grandfather" clause is appropriate in situations such as mine . I consider the requirement of additional study at this stage of my life is unnecessary, not justified, and not relevant given the area of psychological practice in which I work. Surely ongoing Professional Development activities should be sufficient. Also, although I am a member of the APS, I do not consider that the organisation adequately represents the interests of all psychologists especially those older members who have been in Private Practice for many years. e.g. why should my patients be eligible for a lesser Medicare rebate than the patient of a recently qualified "clinical psychologist" with minimal practical experience? This is one of the consequences of the present arrangement which was apparently agreed to and I suspect advocated by the APS. It is my opinion that the APS has been much too elitist in its dealings with APRB, representing the interests of a minority rather than those of the majority psychologists.

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