

Luciano Guglielmin *Psychologist*

Senate enquiry,

I thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts to this standing committee enquiry into the administration of health practitioner registration by the Australian Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

I am a Psychologist in full time private practice from [REDACTED], South Australia. I have been in full time private practice since October 1989, some 10 years after graduating from four years of psychology training at Flinders University and after completing a 2 1/2 year supervised practice program to become registered under the then Psychology Board of South Australia.

In South Australia we did not have separate professional titles. We were all Registered Psychologists able to work across a number of fields. I have worked not only in the clinical area, but also in organisational settings, and within the vocational rehabilitation arena (WorkCover and Motor Accident Commission). In recent years I have specialised in the clinical treatment of such disorders as PTSD, Depression, Anxiety and Pain Disorder both in inpatient and outpatient settings.

Since entering full time private practice, I have held visiting consultant rights to both of the private psychiatric hospitals in Adelaide (The Adelaide Clinic and Fullarton Private Hospital). I am only one of a handful of psychologist that had visiting rights to these private hospitals and regularly work in a collegiate relationship with Psychiatrists.

I have also worked as a member of the Ashford Private Pain Clinic and the Pain Management Unit at The Adelaide Clinic in a multidisciplinary setting which included two Psychiatrists, two Rehabilitation Medicine Specialists, two Anaesthetists, two Psychologists, two Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist and two Social Workers/Family Therapists.

Thus, I have completed 22 years of full time private practice. I have established and maintained a high professional standing and prided myself on high ethical and competency standards.

With the introduction of the Psychology Board of Australia via the AHPRA and the formalisation of endorsement areas of practice, doubt has been cast on my professional competence to practice in the clinical and organisational fields because I am not formally a member of the Australian Psychological Society's college system.

Nor have I had an opportunity to be endorsed via an equitable grandfathered process. My 22 years full time private practice account for nothing. I find this professionally offensive.

Indeed, I have never been a member of the Australian Psychological Society because of philosophical differences, and a view that they have been unable to equitably represent the interests of psychologists in private practice. Unfortunately, the Australian

Psychological Society has inadvertently been seen as the only peak body representing psychologists by Psychology Board of Australia and Medicare.

More importantly however, those clients referred to me under the Medicare arrangements are financially disadvantaged as they have to pay a much larger gap than if they had been seen by an endorsed psychologist, who often has much less practical experience than I.

In addition, in recent times some of my referral sources (mainly GPs) are now in doubt about my competence because they have been told (formally and informally) that only “endorsed Psychologists” are legitimate and competent Psychologists.

I asked the Senate committee to consider the detrimental impact that the formation of the Psychology Board of Australia has had on the profession. I also asked the Senate committee to look beyond the Australian Psychological Society to other representative bodies of psychologists, especially those that represent psychologist in private practice who provide services for a wide range of conditions to the general public.

Regards,

Luciano Guglielmin

Psychologist