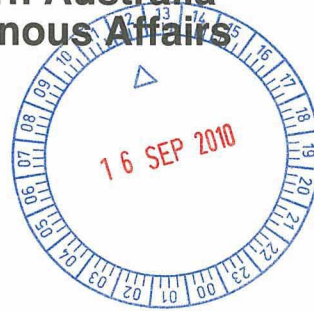




PUBLIC

**Deputy Premier of Western Australia
Minister for Health; Indigenous Affairs**

Our Ref: 25-14826



Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter of 18 August 2010 regarding Petition No 75 – Endorsement of Community Psychology and Health Psychology under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). The petition is based on the belief that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) has made the decision not to approve the Psychology Board of Australia's (PBA) proposal for endorsement for the area of practice of Community Psychology and Health Psychology.

AHWMC has not made the decision to approve or reject the proposal from the PBA regarding the endorsements for the health and community areas of practices. However, AHWMC has requested that a framework be developed to evaluate requests for endorsements in order to provide clear objective advice on the benefits and value that the endorsement will bring. This is being carried out by the Health Workforce Principal Committee and will be completed within the next twelve months.

The background to this issue is that the Psychologists Registration Board of Western Australia (PRBWA) was the only psychologists registration board in Australia that registered specialist title and had seven registered specialist titles. The Australian Psychological Society has nine colleges, these include seven colleges aligned with the seven specialist titles currently registered with the PRBWA, plus colleges for health and community psychology. As there was no registration of specialist title in jurisdictions other than Western Australia, the decision was made not to set up specialist title for PBA, but to approve seven endorsements in the areas of practice consistent with the seven PRBWA categories of specialist title. This ensured continuity for the profession of psychology through transition.

The approval of endorsement of areas of practice is a significant decision that needs to demonstrate benefits to both the public and profession and AHWMC has taken the reasonable view that all proposals need to undergo an objective evaluation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Hames', written over the words 'Yours sincerely'.

Dr Kim Hames MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1 5 SEP 2010