

From: [REDACTED]
To: "panel_hs@legco.gov.hk" <panel_hs@legco.gov.hk>

Date: Sunday, August 05, 2018 12:35AM
Subject: RE: Accredited Registers Scheme for Clinical Psychologists

History: ⇒ This message has been forwarded.

To: Legislative Council of Hong Kong, Health Services Committee (panel_hs@legco.gov.hk)

RE: Accredited Registers Scheme for Clinical Psychologists

Thank you for reading my letter, which documents my opposition to the proposed criteria for the Accredited Registration of clinical psychologists of Hong Kong.

The Accredited Registers Scheme for clinical psychologists needs to be urgently amended in order to address the inherent bias against those not trained in HK from participation. This scheme will limit access to greatly needed mental health services for non- Cantonese speaking residents of Hong Kong.

The current proposal discriminates against all expatriate psychologists, and those with internationally recognised qualifications, advanced degrees and a great diversity of clinical experience. Of all of the professions, psychology is perhaps the most language dependent. It is essential that individuals are able to consult with clinical psychologists who speak their language and demonstrate cultural competency.

Unfortunately I, a French clinical psychologist, like most Non-Cantonese mental health professionals, have been excluded from this debate. There has been no consultation with many of us currently in clinical practice in Hong Kong. Much of this debate has apparently been conducted in Cantonese unfortunately.

This proposal appears to be biased against those with bona-fide credentials who happen to be trained or licensed overseas. It has not been inclusive, so I call for the opportunity to at least express my deep concerns in relation to this scheme.

I find it deeply disturbing that the HKPS-DCP refuses to recognise or honour training and statutory regulation systems that have been developed over many decades and with great rigour in countries such as France, the US, UK, Australia etc.

I request that professional and lay members of the non-Cantonese speaking community be included in the work group of the AR proposal for clinical psychologists to ensure that the results and process of the AR scheme is fair and inclusive. With the goodwill of all parties, I believe the scheme could be adjusted to address our concerns.

Thank you for considering my objections/ concerns / worries / opposition.

Sincerely,

Maggy Dalmat

French Clinical Psychologist