

Submission from Ms Jamie CHENG Po-kwan

To Health Service Panel, Legislative Council of the HKSAR

Submission on views towards the Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions

Rationale of the current Registers Scheme

Rationale of the Pilot Accredited Registers in Healthcare profession should aim at protect the public by ensuring those being registered are able to provide up to standard care. In the clinical psychology field, where clients are usually vulnerable, It of utmost importance to ensure the competence of the service provider.

Standard-based registration for Clinical Psychologist

Training of Clinical Psychology would comprise of at least two part; 1. Knowledge and 2. Clinical training. Overseas country, namely the USA, Canada, the UK and Australia had laid clear guidelines on how clinical experience could be trained up using a competence-based model. These guidelines had required supervisors to be an employee of the organisation and was responsible for the clients being seen by trainee. He or she are required to provide on-site supervision. This model helps to ensure client welfare when service was provided by trainee. These overseas body including Australia and the United States had also clearly articulated role and responsibility of a clinical supervisor. ASPPB had stated in its Supervision Guideline (2003) that supervision played a critical role in the protect of public and in training and practice of psychologist. Supervisory responsibility regarding supervise competence was well articulated in the Ethics Code of by APA in 2003 that supervisor is responsible of the actions of supervised while acting within the scope of supervised professional activities.

Current proposal prepared by the Division of Clinical Psychology, Hong Kong Psychological Society emphasized the training standard of the clinical psychologist. The proposal itself had covered both local practitioners and those from overseas English-speaking countries where clinical psychology field was well developed. Given the vast number of training programme available worldwide, it would only be fair to accept overseas practitioners graduated from accredited programmes being recognised by their local governing body and received a practicing licence. For those who are practicing locally, but did not fit into these criterion, remedial courses had been offered as a way to fill in any training gaps in the transitional arrangement. The proposal itself indeed endeavour to ensure continuation of service, inclusiveness and most importantly standard.

Conclusion

The Accredited Registers Scheme aimed to protect the public by ensuring service quality provided by healthcare professionals. The content above had explained why on-site supervision is a very crucial element in training, if not the most. The proposal submitted by DCP-HKPS, a standard-based one, had put strong emphasise on public protection and at the same time be inclusive to graduates from training institute that was not being recognised. I would, therefore, express my full support to their proposal and at the same time, seek support from the members of the Health Service Panel, Legislative Council. HKSAR.