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To: panel_hs <panel_hs@legco.gov.hk>

Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 07:45PM
Subject: submission to support accredited registration of clinical psychologists (registration number 6DFAD805)

Members of the Health Service Panel of the Legislative Council

I am a retired A level Psychology teacher. I have been waiting for a formal accredited registration of Clinical Psychologists for many years and it is heartening that finally there is some serious movement in that direction. I would like to give my support for the move.

I think that for clinical psychologists, unlike other professions, only academic learning is not enough, supervised practical experience is essential. In this profession, it is important to learn how to apply what is learned to actual situations as well as being sensitive. As I know some clinical psychology courses do not require supervision, so it is important that to get an accredited registration, such requirements be included so practitioners can develop the necessary skills to treat clients. Teachers and doctors require supervision before they can practice so it is reasonable that clinical psychologists have such requirements too.

There is a call for a less stringent requirement for accreditation because there are not enough Clinical Psychologists. I do not agree to such a suggestion. The registration is to help clients to choose a reliable psychologist when they need help. If the accreditation requirements are loose, it is not a reliable guide to distinguish a well trained practitioner from one that is not. What use is it then?

Steps are provided for non eligible clinicians to meet the requirements and I think it is fair that those who are not eligible for registration should take those steps to ensure they have the proper skills and knowledge to treat their clients effectively. I believe that effective clinical psychologists can facilitate mental health but poorly trained ones can let precious opportunities for improvements slip away as well as wasting the time and money of those who need help.

I hope that accredited registration of clinical psychologists can be implemented soon.

Regards,
Ruby Leung