



香港大學
香港薄扶林道

Our ref:
Your ref:

*The University of Hong Kong,
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.*

Tel. 3917 1090

Fax: 2858 7604

E-mail: sandratsang@hku.hk

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Legislative Council
Hong Kong SAR

Dear Hon Legco Members,

Re: Special Meeting on AR in Hong Kong (Clinical Psychologists)

Thank you for arranging a time to discuss the AR of key health professions in Hong Kong, including that of Clinical Psychologists.

As a Registered Clinical Psychologist and Social Worker, and one of the Advisors of the Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP) of The Hong Kong Psychological Society (HKPsS), I am delighted that the HK SAR government is taking active actions to facilitate the proper registration of well-trained and qualified professional Clinical Psychologists in Hong Kong. Since the inception of the AR scheme, I have been working very closely with fellow Clinical Psychologists to drive the way forward. Aside from closely following the guidance of Prof. Yeoh, who has been directing this scheme, we have met

- key Ministers including Prof. Sophia Chan and Dr. C.K. Law,
- many Legco Members, Executive Council members like Dr. the Hon Lam Ching Choi and the Hon Cheung Yu-yan, as well as
- professional leaders, including Mr. Chau Hoi Wai of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services, and nursing leaders like Prof. Frances Wong and Dr. Sharron Leung (Encl.), who served with me on the Nursing Council, and
- patient group advocates, like Mr. Pang Hung Cheung and Mr. Chan Wing Kai.

We are very pleased that all these stakeholders we met concur on the need to upkeep the professional training protocol of Clinical Psychologists, in which on-site supervision by qualified professional Clinical Psychologists is one of the core elements. While it was obvious that the two government subvented MSocSc. Clinical Psychology Degree programs run by The University of Hong

Kong and the Chinese University Hong Kong and meeting international training benchmarks should be the core training model for Hong Kong, the profession should also be inclusive in taking properly trained Clinical Psychologists graduating not from these two programs to join the profession to meet the expanding services needs in Hong Kong.

The DCP of the HKPsS has adhered closely to this direction in preparing for the CP AR. Aside from successfully completing all the necessary logistic arrangements as required by the Scheme, we have also worked out numerous pathways to include qualified candidates to join the AR on grandfather terms, or upon successful completion of different appropriate top-up pathways. I understand that the DCP has submitted the details for the Panel's deliberation on July 16, 2018 and subsequently. I helped to work out and I am in full support of such proposals, which provide viable and rational solutions to address the services demand, while protecting the public to enjoy proper professional Clinical Psychological Services.

As experienced Legislative Councilors and leaders in many professions, I am sure you need no further efforts to be convinced how important it is to upkeep professional training protocol when building up the services task force in any community. We are sure you also note that a particular feature of Clinical Psychologist service is that the professional service is often delivered individually behind closed doors for confidentiality. The service users can only count on the individual professional judgement and competence of the practitioner. That is why proper pre-service on-site training by qualified Clinical Psychologists is indispensable. We therefore count on the expert judgment and leadership to ensure Hong Kong's Clinical Psychological Services are safe and up to standard for the public.

With sincere thanks and best wishes,



Dr. Sandra Tsang, JP
Reg. Clin. Psy., R.S.W, FH.K.Ps.S, FHKPCA
Associate Professor