

10th December 2018

To The Panel of Health Services,

Let me start by introducing myself, I am a Clinical Psychologist who was born and brought up in Hong Kong. At the age of 18, I moved overseas to complete my bachelors, masters and doctoral level education. After this I returned back to Hong Kong – this is my home.

Let me make it clear that I fully support the decision to regulate the professional body of Clinical Psychologists. It is of the utmost importance to all of us to protect the public and uphold the standards of Clinical Psychologists in Hong Kong.

I am grateful to all the individuals and groups who have worked tirelessly to see this come to fruition. Nevertheless, I remain concerned that this current proposal has the potential to exclude non-Cantonese speaking overseas trained Clinical Psychologists.

There are two specific areas of the current proposal that I would like to bring to your attention today.

The first is the Case-by-Case assessment clause. Whilst I understand that a case-by-case consideration is necessary to evaluate qualifications from all around the world, I am concerned that the accrediting body that evaluates us and ultimately decides if our credentials meet criteria for registration (namely the Hong Kong institute of Clinical Psychologists HKICP), has no representation of Non Cantonese speaking Clinical Psychologists.

I am urging you to consider overseas trained non-cantonese speaking psychologists to be included in and represented on The Registration Committee and Professional Standards Committee of the HKICP. We have been through international programs ourselves and therefore are qualified to evaluate individuals' overseas training standards.

My second concern is with the remedial training arrangements. The current proposal includes provisions for remedial arrangements to gain registration, but these transitional arrangements once again have the potential to exclude non-Cantonese speakers. During the proposed training, we are expected to have on site supervision at an NGO, University, Hospital or other government setting. There is simply not enough placement opportunities available for all non Cantonese speaking psychologists to work within these organizations.

If you deem this training absolutely necessary, I would request that we are allowed to do so within our established private practice or medical settings with supervisors that working within our organizations.

It is worth noting that I am a member of the Division of Clinical Psychology; however, I would still not meet the requirements for admission to the register

with the current proposal. I am simply asking to be included and to be allowed to provide the services that I am trained to provide to my patients who need them.

By excluding those of us that are trained overseas, you are effectively taking away an individual's choice to see a clinical psychologist who speaks the same native language as them and who understands the intricacies of their culture. Hong Kong prides itself on being a World Class City; if this is the case, then the services that are provided within this City must reflect this. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharmeen Shroff

Clinical Psychologist
PsyD, MSc, MA, BSc