

To: pid@legco.gov.hk

From: T T [REDACTED]

Date: 12/09/2018 04:37PM

Subject: Letter from an overseas trained psychologist in the proposed AR scheme by DCP, HKPS

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been working as a psychologist providing psychotherapy to more than 100 clients in Hong Kong the past 15 years. In my practice, clients who suffered from debilitating depression, tormenting anxiety, disturbing psychosis, and broken marriages have recovered from their emotional distress as a result of receiving psychotherapy. I also charge my clients at a sliding scale fee below the market price of \$1500-\$1800/hour so my service can be made affordable to distressed individuals from low to middle socioeconomic class.

Yet I am excluded from the AR scheme proposed by the Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP) of Hong Kong Psychological Society(HKPS) because I did not receive my graduate training in clinical psychology(CP) from the University of Hong Kong or Chinese University, but from an accredited clinical psychology program in the United States.

Like many overseas trained clinical psychologists(CP) currently providing mental health services to Hong Kong people yet not trained locally at HKU and CU, under the proposed AR scheme written up by a group of locally trained clinical psychologists in DCP of HKPS, our right and chances to practice psychological service will be evaluated on a case by case basis by a committee formed by locally trained clinical psychologists to decide whether we can practice here in Hong Kong. Yet there is an inherent conflict of interest because many of the locally trained clinical psychologists want to protect their own interests and maintain their existing power turf in the field of clinical psychology here in Hong Kong. They have proposed an AR scheme to allow locally trained cp graduates from HKU and CU to freely entered in to the AR scheme without any conditions, yet they have set stringent conditions for overseas trained clinical psychologists.

DCP uses the reason of "competence" to justify such unequal treatment for entry into the AR scheme for locally trained and overseas trained psychologists. However, when 100 doctoral level clinical psychologists from HKADCP (Hong Kong Association of Doctors in Clinical Psychology) trained by a US program that has received international accreditation could only enter into the AR scheme by fulfilling a set of stringent conditions proposed by locally trained clinical psychologists in the DCP, and their doctoral training has more training

and supervision hours than locally trained master's level CPs, then DCP's stance on establishing competence lacks justification and refuted itself.

The AR scheme by HKPS DCP is inherently unfair to overseas trained clinical psychologists, and narrowly favours locally trained clinical psychologists, even when the two local clinical psychology program is not accredited by internationally recognised accreditation bodies.

It is a proposal that claims to emphasise on competence but uses the claim of "competence" to inherently set barriers to limit access of overseas trained clinical psychologists from entering into the AR scheme.

Given the shortage of mental health services in Hong Kong, limiting overseas trained, qualified clinical psychologists from direct entry into the AR Scheme reduces the number of qualified clinical psychologists from providing mental health services to Hong Kong people.

The AR scheme proposed by DCP will remove at least 100 overseas trained clinical psychologists from providing mental health services and will lead to hundreds and thousands of emotionally distressed Hong Kong people from receiving mental health services from overseas trained CPs. If HKU and CU produces 10 CP graduates each year, it will take at least 10 years to produce trained CPs to make up for the loss in number of CPs given the proposed AR scheme, while the population of Hong Kong continue to grow in the coming 10 years leading to more and more Hong Kong people in need of mental health services. This proposal hurts the mental health of many Hong Kong people and is inherently unfair to qualified overseas trained cps who are already contributing to the well being of many Hong Kong people.

An overseas trained psychologist working in Hong Kong

Sent from my iPhone