**Cross-Board consultation on common guidelines and psychology** *Code of ethics*

**Submission from the Clinical Psychology Reference Group (CPRG) from the Health Department of Western Australia.**

1. The CPRG believes that the PBA should adopt the General Code of Ethics for psychology with the recommendation that a new code is developed that reflects the specific ethical and professional issues facing psychologists at the earliest opportunity. It is important that the process and documents that are involved in the national registration of the profession are kept separate from any one organisation, such as the APS, which represents only some members of the profession; matters of national registration should be based on fair and open consultation with all professional bodies that represent psychology.
2. In addition there are some concerns about the use of the term “Doctor” for non-medical professionals or for those who do not have university Doctoral qualifications, for example Dentists, Podiatrists or Chiropractors using this term. It is likely that the overuse of this term will confuse the public and make it harder for professionals to clearly demonstrate to others their medical training or alternatively their Doctoral qualifications. The variation in people’s willingness to use this term opens up the possibility of the people who decide to use this term having unfair advantage or appearance of additional qualifications over those who choose not to.

Regards,

Craig Nicholls   
Specialist Clinical Psychologist

Chair of the Clinical Psychology Reference Group (CPRG)