



## Department of Health

Incorporating: Health, Mental Health and Senior Victorians

17/09/09

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OUR REF: ADD/09/29077

YOUR REF:

Mr Tim Newell  
President  
Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia  
290 Park Street  
FITZROY NORTH 3068

Dear Tim

Thank you for your submission in response to the 'Best Practice Self-Regulation Model for Psychotherapy and Counselling in Australia' report ('report') that was commissioned by the Department of Human Services ('the department').

The department received 20 submissions from a range of stakeholders in response to the report findings which are available on the department's website at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pracreg/psychotherapy.htm>

Since submissions closed on 29 August 2008 the Australian Register of Counsellors and Psychotherapists ('ARCAP') was established and recognised by your association and the Australian Counselling Association ('ACA') as an independent national professional self-regulatory body for the professions, effective from 1 July 2009. It is understood that the primary purpose of ARCAP is to provide a consistent national code of ethics, conduct and practice for the professions of psychotherapy and counselling. The registration criteria for ARCAP are that a practitioner holds relevant qualifications, must have completed recognised supervised professional practice, and comply with professional development requirements.

Following these developments and further discussions with chief executive officers from both associations, it was noted that statutory registration for the psychotherapy and counselling professions would not be pursued at this stage.

The department has informed members of the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee of the progress and decisions reached by PACFA and ACA.

Thank you for your interest in the department's commissioned research on models of self-regulation for psychotherapy and counselling practitioners and other unregistered health professions. Further updates will be provided via the practitioner regulation website, <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pracreg/psychotherapy.htm>

For further information please contact Mr Dan Harvey, Senior Policy Adviser, Service and Workforce Planning on (03) 9096 8863, or by email at [daniel.harvey@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.harvey@dhs.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Dan Jefferson  
Acting Director  
Service and Workforce Planning

