

February 29, 2024

consultation@nzpb.org.nz

Psychologists Board's Scopes of Practice Consultation

Submission: (ANZCA) Faculty of Pain Medicine NZ

On behalf of the Faculty of Pain Medicine New Zealand National Committee (FPM NZNC), Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the above consultation. The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is responsible for the training and examination of anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists and for the standards of clinical practice in New Zealand and Australia. ANZCA's mission is to serve the community by fostering safety and high-quality patient care in anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, and pain medicine.

In summary, the FPM NZNC consider that we are broadly supportive of the Psychology Board addressing the scope of practice questions for psychologists; this may clear up some significantly grey areas and bring psychology more into line with other health disciplines. We consider that the proposed approach has the potential to improve the current situation.

Integrated pain management services already find there is a lack psychologists able to see patients with chronic pain, and this is a skill that psychologist develop through experience at specialist pain centres and with appropriate training. Therefore, we recommend the establishment of a pathway for psychologists from various scopes of practice to get an endorsement to work in pain management. The Faculty of Pain Medicine would like to express our willingness to support the Psychologists

Board in defining that 'endorsement' for pain management, and potentially, providing resources / opportunities to obtain it.

We would also urge the Board to be mindful of the need to ensure adequate time for adaptation to any changes (particularly for those already in established training pathways), and to take great care to avoid destabilisation of the existing pain workforce in this space.

While some additional scopes are probably not needed (apart from endorsing consideration of a specific pain psychology approach), clarification around the scope of Health Psychology (which is currently vague), where Rehabilitation Psychology fits into this proposed structure, and Youth (adolescent/young adult) Psychology scope and the boundaries for this should all be considered.

The additional proposed scopes, especially Health, Child & Family, and ABA are long overdue.

We completely support the development of a kaupapa Māori scope of psychology practice.



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