



The New Zealand Psychological Society

Te Rōpū Mātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa

26 July, 2011

Hon Tony Ryall
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

Extension of voluntary bonding scheme to psychologists

The New Zealand Psychological Society (NZPsS) wrote to you in 2009 congratulating the Government on addressing workforce shortages in medicine, nursing and midwifery by establishing a voluntary bonding scheme for graduates to work in hard-to-staff areas. We noted in our letter that we considered it would be beneficial for this scheme to be extended to psychologists to assist in the workforce shortages which are impacting on the provision of psychological services.

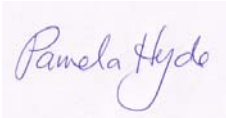
Dr Malcolm Stewart has also recently written to you on behalf of the New Zealand DHB Psychology Leadership Council asking that consideration be given to extending this scheme to psychologists. He noted in his letter the significant contribution psychologists make to mental health. He also noted that there are regions and subspecialties in psychology where there are difficulties in the recruitment and retention of psychologists.

The NZPsS supports the concerns expressed in Dr Stewart's letter. We are also aware that the lack of clinical psychologists is resulting in unfilled vacancies in DHBs. We are aware also that clinical psychologists and educational psychologists remain on the Immigration New Zealand's long-term skill shortage list and that the need for

psychological, neuropsychological and educational psychology services is increasing. Sir Peter Gluckman pointed out recently that there is an urgent need to meet the needs of at risk youth in New Zealand. The NZPsS is also aware as is Dr Stewart that there are unmet mental health needs in Māori, Pacific and Asian communities.

In summary we support the New Zealand DHB Psychology Leadership Council in seeking an extension to the voluntary bonding scheme. We believe that an investment in psychologists through this scheme will bring important benefits to the provision of mental health services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Pamela Hyde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Pamela Hyde
Executive Director