

Julie Phillips
Disability Advocate

22 February 2013

The Secretary
Legal and Social Issues Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3002
Email: lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Mdm

Re-: Inquiry into AHPRA

Please treat this as a submission to the above enquiry.

I have worked as a Disability Advocate for a number of years, and on approximately 4 occasions in the last three years have assisted clients to make complaints to AHPRA. On each occasion, AHPRA found in favour of the psychologist in every complaint, on every point.

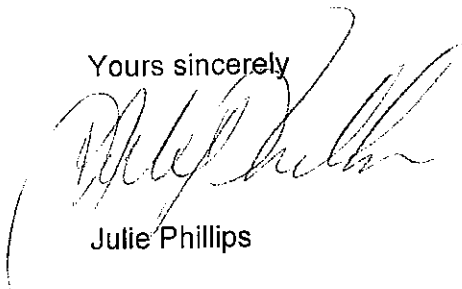
It did not seem to matter whether the conduct of the psychologist was in keeping with the ethics and conduct set out by the, for example, Australian Psychological Society or other professional body, there were simply findings that in every complaint there was no case to answer.

I understand that without the details of each case this information may not be as helpful as it could be, and I have encouraged weary parents of children with disabilities to write themselves and contribute to your enquiry. Suffice to say, I would never again suggest to any person that they make a complaint to AHPRA. My clients' experiences, and the experiences of those in the sector that have been shared with me, lead me to conclude that this organisation is not impartial, and that it is not worth the effort of making a complaint to it. This puts people in a terrible position when they sincerely believe, and even have evidence of, what they believed to be misconduct.

Unfortunately I do not have any productive suggestions as to how to address this issue, and I don't believe anything at this stage will be able to address the reputation that AHPRA has. In the sector that I work in, the organisation has no credibility, and I believe should be disbanded in order that any changes made are able to convince the public that they will be heard.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Phillips', written in a cursive style.

Julie Phillips