

Emailed 6/3/13

Att: The Secretary,  
The Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee,  
Legislative Council,  
Parliament House,  
Spring Street,  
Melbourne, Vic. 3002  
Email: [lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**Re report on the performance of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).**

The terms of reference of the inquiry into the performance of the AHPRA include cost effectiveness, and the regulatory efficacy of the ability of the national scheme to protect the Victorian public.

Please accept my submission regarding my concerns about the performance of the AHPRA with regard to my personal experience over an eighteen month period in which I was subjected to a prolonged process, requiring extensive correspondence, photocopying of documents, and legal advice, resulting in significant costs; culminating in a two and half hour panel hearing; where documents and evidence were not fully examined, resulting in a sanction against me, formulated on subjective opinion rather than facts-

I therefore fail to see how this is an effective use of public money.

Beginning with a notification on 27/9/11, involving an alleged administrative discrepancy with no regulatory codes of practice applicable, and only voluntary guidelines set down by the Australian Psychological Society. My matter was eventually referred to a performance and professional standards panel by the Psychology Board of Australia (The Board) on 1/3/13.

My experience with the panel subjected me to considerable aggression and hostility, where there was more a foundation based upon assertion and subjective opinion, with a decided lack of fact based evidence. Indicative, I believe, of the panel having not fully examined evidence tendered to them in my case. Arising from this, a substantial lack of objectivity ensued, calling into question, in my opinion, the fulfillment of AHPRA's mandated operations.

There was a refusal to clarify issues of confidentiality preceding the hearing, which is an issue of great public interest and concern. My correspondences to AHPRA to this effect were not answered.

While AHPRA's investigative powers are necessary and required to ensure public safety, I have witnessed breaches to public safety ignored by AHPRA, with minor sanctions or no sanction to offending practitioners issued in such cases.

In my case where no public safety factors were involved and no complaint by the public made against me, a substantial sanction has been imposed based on opinion and hearsay with no remedy by AHPRA, to 'fix' the alleged problem. My experience leads me to believe that the performance of the AHPRA and the Board in addressing my case has been profoundly subjective and unprofessional, with out any semblance of natural justice afforded to me.

It is therefore hard to imagine that AHPRA is able to pursue the public interest when my experience with AHPRA and the Board has born witness to such problems in the execution of its responsibilities.

In my experience, the excessive prolongation of my matter before AHPRA ensured that substantial cost effectiveness was lost.

Yours faithfully

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