



| | |
|--|---|
| PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY | |
| TITLE: USE OF TITLE POLICY | |
| EFFECTIVE DATE: 17 MAY 2004 | REVIEWED: 20 MARCH 2006, 11 December 2006 |
| REVIEW DATE: 11 December 2008 | |

POLICY

Only a person who is registered in the category 'Psychologists' -may use the title '**psychologist**' .

Conditionally registered psychologists undertaking supervised practice must inform their clients of their conditional registration status.

When identifying as a psychologist, only persons who have completed a Doctorate in psychology may use the title 'Doctor'

Only a psychologist who has relevant qualifications and experience may use an adjectival title related to a specific area of psychological practice ie: 'Neuro-Psychologist'; 'Child-Psychologist'; 'Counselling–Psychologist'; 'Clinical-Psychologist' etc

BACKGROUND

The Psychologists Board of the Northern Territory (the Board) is established under Part 2 of the *Health Practitioners Act 2004* (the Act). The Board is empowered under Part 3 of the Act to determine the qualifications for registration of persons and the appropriate standards of conduct by practitioners.

The underlying intent of the powers created under the Act is to protect the public.

The Board is aware that the use of adjectival titles is becoming more common. In the interest of public protection psychologists may only use an adjectival title if they hold relevant qualifications in an area of psychological practice.

Boards nationally have experience of psychologists referring to themselves or being referred to as Doctor. This Policy is designed to assist psychologists and the public to identify when a psychologist may legally use the - title 'Doctor'.

The public is also entitled to know if a psychologist holds full or conditional registration.

LEGISLATION

s 104 of the Act states A person must not practise a profession or trade under a title specified in Schedule 7, column 2 unless he or she is registered or enrolled in a category of registration or enrolment in the category of health care practice specified opposite the title in Schedule 7 column 1.

Section 52 of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* makes it an offence, in trade or commerce, to engage in conduct that is either misleading or deceptive or is likely to mislead or deceive. Pursuant to section 6 (4) (b) of this Act, the promotional activities of professionals are included and therefore it is possible for a psychologist to be prosecuted for breaching this section through the use of a title, which either misleads or deceives the public or is likely to mislead or deceive the public.