

☐ The Kairos Centre ☐

Mr Dan Harvey
Service and Workforce Planning Branch
Department of Human Services
GPO Box 4057, Melbourne 3001

May 19th, 2008

Dear Mr Harvey

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Best Practice Self-Regulation Model for Psychotherapy and Counselling in Australia: Final Report*. As a training provider in the field of psychotherapy and counselling, the Kairos Centre supports the recommendations of the report. Specifically,

- Further dialogue between the PACFA member associations and other stakeholders in the outcome of professional self-regulation, leading to:
 - A governance structure that provides for a unified independent register with appropriate standards.
 - Agreement on levels of training and/or competencies mapped against job requirements and identified on a public register.
 - Agreement on complaints handling processes and notification of de-registered practitioners.
 - Implementation of a single course accreditation scheme for counselling and psychotherapy courses which meets best practice standards.
 - Developing the research evidence base to underpin professional practice and workforce development.
 - A fostering of collegial versus competitive professional practices.

It is matter of some urgency that psychotherapy and counselling be registered and accredited as an allied health profession in Australia. Implementation of the best practice self-regulation model is a sound step towards this.

Yours sincerely



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Director

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