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28 August, 2008

**Dear Sir,**

**Submission regarding the on the Report and findings prepared by Professor Margot Schofield on Best Practice Self-Regulation Models for Psychotherapy and Counselling in Australia,**

The New South Wales Institute of Family Psychotherapy has considered the above-mentioned report and would like to **endorse the recommendation that Model One in the report be adopted.**

Four reasons for endorsing this model is that the first model recognises the significant work already achieved by PACFA to unify the profession, set standards, and develop rigorous best practice regulatory structures to cover the member associations.

The achievements we refer to include setting standards of training and practice, maintaining a register of practitioners, and managing a rigorous and non-adversarial complaints handling and appeals process for registrants, as well as supporting good complaints handling processes among the member associations for members not on the register.

We believe that the advantage of adopting the PACFA structure as the core regulatory structure is that it builds on the substantial body of regulatory work already undertaken collaboratively by over 40 professional associations and represents a considerable consensus in the professional field.

We further believe that Model One is a useful model because it proposes to further develop the regulatory functions of PACFA by making the registration function into a more independent system modelled on statutory registration boards and complaints handling processes.

We understand and endorse that in this model, access to the Registration process would be via member associations of PACFA which would serve as the national regulatory and standards body for the profession.

We ask that you consider our submission,

Yours sincerely,

Dr Timothy Keogh

**On behalf of the NSWIFP Executive**