NEW ZEALAND PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD

ACCREDITATION REPORT:

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND'S POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY PGDipHlthPsych

Introduction;

It is a function of the New Zealand Psychologists Board to prescribe the qualifications required for scopes of practice within the profession, and, for that purpose, to accredit and monitor educational institutions and degrees, courses of studies, or programmes [refer s 118(a) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003]. Applications for accreditation are assessed with reference to the relevant sections of the Board's prescribed *Standards and Procedures for the Accreditation of Qualifications Leading to Registration as a Psychologist in New Zealand* document (current version).

Date of Application:

The University of Auckland lodged an application for accreditation of their PGDipHlthPsych with the Board on 30 June 2010.

Dates of Site Visit:

The site visit was conducted on 03 & 04 February, 2011.

Date of Board Decision:

02 November 2011.

Decision:

The Board has granted accreditation to the University of Auckland's PGDipHlthPsych course of study for an initial period of two years, but extendable to 7 years conditional on a report to the Board confirming that the following requirements have been satisfactorily addressed;

- a clear specification of the core skills required of a health psychology practitioner is included in the Health Psychology Practitioner Training Programme Handbook and appropriate core skills be documented within programme course outlines; and
- an explicit statement on biculturalism and cultural competency and their relevance for the programme is inserted into the Health Psychology Practitioner Training Programme Handbook, which should also clearly identify cultural advisory staff available to trainees within the programme; and
- the course curriculum has been fortified so as to assure that it produces graduates with the required (core) cultural competencies.

The Board has also required that the course of study include updates on the following recommendations in its first routine monitoring report;

- That more time be given within the academic programme to dealing with therapeutic interventions for depression and anxiety disorders, and that these be

included as specific course components in the two compulsory papers for the Diploma.

- That the programme seeks to retain the involvement of the Department of Psychology, as this brings benefit to the programme.

Accreditation current until:
02 November 2013.[1]

On behalf of the Board,

Dr Ian Miller, Chairperson
09 November 2011

[1] It should be noted that the Board reserves the right to revisit a course granted accreditation subject to periodic reporting requirements.