FEEDBACK ON THE PSYSSA FACILITATION PROCESS BETWEEN THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR
PSYCHOLOGY (PBP) OF THE HPCSA AND RELPAG

COMPILED BY PSYSSA REPRESENTATIVES

A meeting was held between the Professional Board for Psychology (PBP) of the HPCSA and
ReLPAG facilitated by PsySSA at Emperor’s Palace – 11 August 2016, 13:00 – 16:30

PBP representatives: Prof Basil Pillay, Dr Thandeka Moloi, Prof Malose Langa, Prof Charles Young,
Mr Motladi Phala

ReLPAG representatives: Dr Kobus Scholtemeyer, Dr Kevin Fourie, Dr Susan Kriegler, Mr Johan
Landman

PsySSA Facilitators: Prof Juan Nel, Prof Sumaya Laher, Dr Helen Dunbar-Krige, Dr Ewald Crause

Also in attendance: PBP Staff - Ms Adelle Taljaard, Ms Portia Khati

The meeting commenced with introductions, setting terms of engagement and discussion on
expectations. This was followed by discussion on a way forward with regards to a) the current
situation of non-reimbursement by medical schemes of educational, counselling and industrial
psychologists; b) the current scope of practice; c) the recognition of prior learning. The following
outcomes were agreed on:

1) Both parties will attempt to find a way forward with regards to the Scope of Practice that is
consistent with the regulations that govern psychological practice in South Africa.

In the short term:

2) The PBP will release guidelines within a matter of weeks to assist in clarifying the scope of
practice for each category of psychology professional, beginning with educational-, followed
by counselling- and industrial psychology, and others. These guidelines will aid in clarifying
Scope of Practice until such time as the revised Scope of Practice is promulgated (see points
5-7 below).

3) The PBP will host an invited workshop to clarify Scope of Practice. Representatives from the
Council of Medical Schemes, Medical Aids and relevant stakeholder organisations in
psychology will be invited. The workshop will take place before 24 September 2016, possibly
before or during the PsySSA Congress at Emperors Palace (20-23 September).
In the medium term:

4) The PBP will consider applications on a case by case basis from individuals who were formally trained in a different model who wish to be registered in a category consistent with their formal PBP-accredited training.

5) The PBP is currently revising the Scope of Practice within the current regulations and will be sending out a national survey to assist in informing this evidence-based and internationally bench-marked process.

In the long term:

6) A draft revised Scope of Practice will be circulated to all relevant stakeholders for comment and changes made following the consultation process which could then be considered for promulgation.

All parties adjourned with the agreement that parties will demonstrate leadership in remaining committed to the process and will consider further engagement on medium and long term goals.

Feedback from ReLPAG received on 16 August 2016 regard to PsySSA-compiled feedback report of 11 August 2016

In terms of point 1:

ReLPAG will only accept this formulation if it is expressly understood that "regulations that govern psychological practice in South Africa" includes the Code of Conduct as being of equal standing to the Regulations Governing the Scopes of Practice.

In terms of point 3:

ReLPAG can only partake in this discussion with the medical aids if the guidelines to be released will incorporate the competency of psychologists as described in the Ethical Code.

Feedback from PBP, received on Wednesday, 14 September 2016 with regard to PsySSA-compiled feedback report of 11 August 2016

1) The PBP did not have any alterations to make to the draft report and will in the foreseeable future provide a date for a follow-up meeting with ReLPAG.

2) Given the increased demands in the activities of the Board, hosting a workshop with representatives of the medical aids and relevant stakeholders at this stage will not be viable
for the Board.

3) The Board will arrange a session within a short time to clarify the scope of practice; all involved parties will be notified of possible dates in due time.

4) Concerning the draft settlement proposal and letter from ReLPAG dated 16 August, the Board is seeking advice from its legal team. The Board is not in a position to make pre-settlement agreements without the opinion of its legal team.

Note: The Board released the national survey on all registered psychology practitioners towards the end of August and the survey remained open for psychology professionals to respond till 16 September 2016.

A. Recommendations from the PsySSA facilitators

1) That we urge the Board to reconsider hosting a meeting with the medical aids as it is such a serious matter and cannot stand over for much longer

2) That a follow-up meeting between the PBP and ReLPAG be seen as a matter of importance (Note, PsySSA remains available to facilitate such a meeting).

17 September 2016