

**APS CCLIN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

Welcome to the second APS College of Clinical Psychologists (CCLIN) National Executive Committee (NEC) Student Representative report. As student representatives we aim to give students of postgraduate clinical psychology degrees a voice at the national level about student issues that are relevant to the CCLIN. Below are some topics that we believe are currently the most relevant for postgraduate clinical psychology students:

Welcome to new Student CCLIN NEC Representative:

We have a new student representative on the CCLIN NEC. Welcome to Carly Reid, who is a Master/PhD student from Curtin Uni in W.A. She joins Kerrie Clarke a DPsych student from Monash Uni in Vic who has been on the CCLIN for the past 3 years. Thanks to the previous rep Tamara for her hard work in 2008 for the CCLIN and congratulations on completing her Masters!

Student Membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists:

We would firstly like to mention that the fee to become an APS Student Subscriber is now \$75, a big reduction on previous year's fees. We are very happy about this decision by the APS as membership is now more affordable for students. In regards to student membership of the CCLIN, our project to raise the profile (and student member numbers) of the College of Clinical Psychologists among the ranks of the postgraduate clinical psychology students was successful in 2008. There was a 62% increase in Student members across 2008, from 124 members at the end of 2007, to 201 in early 2009. We would like to reiterate that if you already hold a Student subscriber membership to the APS, you can join the CCLIN for FREE just by filling in a form! However, if you are a full-time student of a postgraduate clinical psychology program and hold a grade of membership higher than Student Subscriber (e.g. Associate or Full Member) to the APS then you can join the College as a Student member, but will have to pay the subscribed annual College membership fee (which is currently \$80). The student membership form can be found at: <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/cclin/join/>. CCLIN student membership allows you to access member resources of the CCLIN on their website and you will also be alerted to information about upcoming PD events.

Associate Membership of the CCLIN:

We would like to remind those lucky people who have graduated from the Masters of Clinical Psychology that you can join the College of Clinical Psychologists as an Associate Member during your year (or however long it takes) of supervised practice before you are eligible for full membership of the Clinical College. Associate Membership is not compulsory. If you would like to pursue this avenue please contact the APS at: [membership@psychology.org.au](mailto:membership@psychology.org.au).

APS CCLIN NEC Student Prize:

In our August 2008 we informed students about the proposal we had put forward for an APS CCLIN Student Prize. It was decided that a student prize would be awarded to one student from each Australian University based on their clinical skills, leadership, and relevance of their research to clinical psychology as judged by both students and staff within the program. The prize will commence this year and a call for nominations will be made in April 2009. We will be contacting Course Convenors in April to ask for nominations from each uni for the prize.

Student Representatives from each uni:

We have discussed the ongoing barriers in communicating student issues in clinical psychology with the student population, given the large number of clinical psychology programs. The NEC has approved a call for a Student Representative from each Australian University that has a postgraduate clinical psychology program. We will be contacting Clinical Directors in the next few months to ask for names to be put forward, so if you are interested in representing the clinical students at your university, please speak to your Clinical Director. We feel that having a contact person at each uni will aid in assisting communication each way from the CCLIN NEC student reps and the clinical psychology student population.

Other issues in Clinical Psychology:

Just a quick note on a few other issues currently relevant to Clinical Psychology students:

*Survey of postgraduate clinical psychology students:* We are currently developing a survey to send out to all Australian postgraduate clinical psychology students about how the College can better meet the needs of clinical psychology students. We hope to send this out later in the year.

*National Accreditation and Registration:* As you may be aware, psychologists will be a part of the National Accreditation and Registration scheme, which commences on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. This means that registration as a psychologist will be processed at a national level, rather than by each state as it currently stands. The CCLIN NEC has been involved in submissions regarding this scheme, particularly more recently around the issues of specialist registration (e.g. having a specialist title of Clinical Psychologist). To find out more information about this scheme, please visit the website: <http://www.nhwt.gov.au/natreg.asp>.

*Graduate Certificates in Psychology (bridging courses):* At the APS AGM of 2008, a motion was put forward and passed to allow a new additional entry route into a college through a bridging course. The new additional entry route requires a minimum of an approved and accredited professional Masters Degree within a specialisation of psychology completed within the last five years, plus full membership of another college, plus successful completion of an approved and accredited bridging Course, and meeting the requirements of the desired college. The CCLIN is currently in the process of developing Approval Guidelines for these Bridging Courses.

*Clinical Placements:* The CCLIN is very aware of issues regarding clinical placements, and ongoing discussions have been conducted at CCLIN NEC meetings. The Course Approvals representative on the CCLIN NEC has surveyed Clinic Directors, and the results have indicated that clinical placements and the drop in referrals to University Clinics are issues that may have the potential to adversely affect clinical training in a major way. These issues will continue to be discussed at the CCLIN NEC level, and we would love to have your feedback as a student on these issues as well. It is encouraging that the issues across professions in regards to clinical placements are being discussed at the governmental level as well through the National Health Workforce Taskforce, where the CCLIN has been providing a voice for the need to address postgraduate clinical psychology placements also. We will keep you updated on advances in this process.

Please direct any feedback/concerns/issues to us on:

Kerrie Clarke  
DPsych (Clinical) Candidate  
Monash University  
Email: [Kerrie.clarke@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Kerrie.clarke@med.monash.edu.au)

Carly Reid  
PhD (Clinical) Candidate  
Curtin University of Technology  
Email: [carly.reid@curtin.edu.au](mailto:carly.reid@curtin.edu.au)