



Press Release on 30 December 2006

**The Survey Results on “The Qualifications & Training of
Clinical Psychologists as Understood by the Public”**

Appendix 1: Qualifications of Clinical Psychologists

To differentiate whether a self-proclaimed Clinical Psychologist is in possession of the qualifications required of a Clinical Psychologist by local professional body (DCP) or other professional body of a developed country, the general public is advised to consider the following issues:

1. **Basic Qualifications**

In HK, the basic qualification of a Clinical Psychologist is having satisfactorily completed a 2-year full-time Master Degree Programme in Clinical Psychology after obtaining a Bachelor Degree with Honours in Psychology. Those having a Bachelor Degree in subjects other than Psychology have to take a Post-Graduate Diploma/Certificate in Psychology to satisfy the prerequisite entry requirements of the Master Degree Programme in Clinical Psychology in HK.

2. **Requirements of Training Programmes in Clinical Psychology**

Besides the basic qualifications, DCP requires that the Clinical Psychology Programme completed is of a quality acceptable to DCP and developed countries (see App. 2). The recognized programme should have an adequate coverage of core subject areas (e.g. psychological assessment, therapeutic approaches, theories of psychological problems of a variety of client groups, research methodology, etc.), a certain fixed number of days of supervised clinical practice, and adequate opportunity to experience a broad range of problem categories and treatment demands in response to new developments and areas of concern within the profession. At present, in HK, only the Clinical Psychology Training Programmes offered by The University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong are recognized by DCP. The Master Degree Programmes are 2-year full-time courses. The Doctoral Programmes in Clinical Psychology are open to those who have already completed the Master Degree Programme. The duration of study can be 2 year full-time or 3 year part-time. The curriculum, clinical training and empirical research of the 2 universities are recognized by DCP, the Government and Non-Government Offices, and on a par with the standard of most developed countries. Clinical Psychology Training Programmes accredited by American Psychological Association should be 3-year full-time (or

equivalent) post-graduate training, plus 1 year full-time internship to obtain the Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology.

3. How to find qualified Clinical Psychologist
DCP currently has more than 200 members. They have all obtained the basic qualifications of a Clinical Psychologist. 20% have obtained an additional Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology or in Psychology. All members are bound by the Code of Professional Conduct, and are willing to take at least 30 hours continuing education activities each year. 90% of the members are working in the public sector, and 10% in the private sector. DCP's membership list and Services provided by members in both the public and private sectors can be found in the DCP website <http://rouge.hkps.org.hk/dcp/>.

For further information about Clinical Psychology and the qualifications of Clinical Psychologists, the public can write to the Honorary Secretary, Division of Clinical Psychology, the Hong Kong Psychological Society at G.P.O. Box 9828, or e-mail dcp@hkps.org.hk, or browse at <http://rouge.hkps.org.hk/dcp/>.