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Hon. John Hill MP
Chair, Australian Health Force Ministerial Alliance

June 26, 2010

Dear Hon. John Hill:

We write on behalf of the executive committee of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA; Division 27 of the American Psychological Association, which is the APA equivalent of the APS College of Community Psychologists) in support of our Australian colleagues' plea that you reconsider the recent decision of the Australian Health Force Ministerial Council to exclude the areas of Community Psychology and of Health Psychology from specialist practice endorsement for psychologists under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Community Psychology is a growing and vibrant discipline world wide and has made vital contributions in many countries, including here in the United States, in the areas of prevention of mental health problems, the reduction of costs associated with such problems, the promotion of psychological well-being and positive health, and the promotion of citizen empowerment and community development.

Community psychology and community psychologists have much to contribute to the laudable priorities in your health reform effort – prevention, increased engagement with communities to assist people to make healthier choices and the reduction of inequity by addressing social disadvantage.

We understand that accreditation and licensing systems differ from country to country, but we can assure you that the practice of community psychology is distinctly different from generalist or clinical psychological practice, and is thriving here in the US and

elsewhere in the world. We would be more than happy to provide further evidence of this specialization, and to answer any queries you might have.

Respectfully,



Mark S. Aber, Ph.D.
President



Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D.
Past President

c. Hon. Nicola Roxon, MP, Federal Minister for Health