

To: Ms P Khati and Mr J August

Committee Coordinator

Professional Board for Psychology

Date: 5th July 2019

Dear Ms Khati and Mr August

RE: RESPONSE TO THE REVISED MANDATE OF THE PSYCHOMETRICS COMMITTEE OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 2019 on the revised mandate of the Psychometrics Committee of the Professional Board for Psychology. Assessment Standards South Africa (ASSA) members discussed the letter on 4 July 2019 and would like to respond as follows:

- Firstly, we are very positive about the clarity provided by the Board for Psychology with regard to the mandate of the Psychometrics Committee to take responsibility for “test classification (not evaluation)” in line with the HPCSA regulatory framework.
- As per the Board communication, we are pleased to note that this process has commenced as from February 2019, and that the Board will be publishing a statement to this effect soon.
- The Annual publication of an updated list of psychological tests classified as psychological measures by the Professional Board is welcomed. If practically possible, more regular updates could perhaps be considered?
- The Board’s responsibility of developing training guidelines/standards, accreditation of qualifications, universities and internship programmes, as well as managing the Board examinations and continued professional development is acknowledged and appreciated, as is the importance of development of guidelines for ethical practice related to psychological test use.
- With regard to development of minimum requirements/standards for psychological tests, we are keen to share with the Board for Psychology and the Psychometrics Committee what ASSA has been working on and will soon be ready to release for stakeholder input, feedback, and comments. The model is based on the European Federation of Psychological Associations (EFPA) guidelines but firmly grounded in the practical realities and complexities of the South African context. Our proposed Test Evaluation process and Criteria documents provide a clear guideline for required minimum standards for assessment measures to test publishers, test users and other stakeholders and professionals in the field of psychological (and other) assessments used in various contexts. We believe that the collaborative process that included members of People Assessment in Industry (PAI), SIOPSA, PsySSA, and Association of Test Publishers (ATP) will provide a firm baseline for future evaluation processes that will be to the benefit of test takers, test users and the profession.
- The review document considers issues related to the test and the technical manual with an emphasis on psychometric properties that are fit for context. Hence the criteria consider issues related to cultural and contextual issues beyond just item content. This is done as ASSA believes that a holistic and transformative understanding of fit for context is necessary to promote change and responsible test use in South Africa.
- We believe that the current status quo provides an exciting new opportunity for positive further discussions and collaboration between various professional bodies to set clear standards - in line with international best practice - for assessment-related processes that can be operationalised in the South African context.

- More importantly we would very much welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Professional Board and the Psychometrics Committee in particular to work towards a common understanding of the minimum requirements/standards for psychological tests.
- We welcome the Round Table and other discussion opportunities at the upcoming SIOPSA and PsySSA conferences, and hope that together with the Professional Board for Psychology, we can reach consensus on the minimum requirements going forward.

We would like to thank the Board for maintaining communication with ASSA on this critical matter. We hope that this collaborative stance can both promote and strengthen the psychological profession in South Africa, and by doing so, better protect the public.

Yours faithfully

Mr. David Bischof (Chairperson – ASSA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Bischof', written in a cursive style.

Professor Hennie Kriek (Director – ASSA)

Professor Sumaya Laher (Director – ASSA)

Professor David Maree (Director – ASSA)

Professor Marié de Beer (Director – ASSA)

Nadene Venter (Director – ASSA)