



**Office of the
Health Complaints Commissioner
2006**

700-0604017 Professional conduct amounting to a transgression of a transgression of sections 1.1 and 1.7 of the Psychologist Code.

Section 23 (1)(c) of the of the Health Complaints Act 1995 that - the health service provider acted unreasonably in the manner of providing a health service.

The complainant was contacted by a psychologist on behalf of the psychologist's client, making claims about the complainant's judgement and requesting that she reconsider ending her friendship with the psychologist's client. The complainant considered that this was highly inappropriate behaviour and that she was further traumatising by the psychologist's actions in outlining elements of her client's life and putting pressure on her to continue a relationship she did not want.

The issues raised in the complaint were referred to the Psychologist Registration Board of Tasmania under s.25 (1A) of the *Health Complaints Act 1995*. On 31 January 2007 the Board advised that the Board, having considered the complaint and oral and written explanations from the psychologist, found that her actions amounted to a transgression of sections 1.1 and 1.7 of the Psychologist Code and that the matter of complaint has been substantiated.

The psychologist was reprimanded pursuant to section 48(9) of the *Psychologist Registration Act 2000* and entered into an undertaking to submit to further professional supervision for two hours per fortnight for a period of twelve months in which supervision was to specifically address the issue of inter-personal boundaries. The Board arranged for the supervision and reporting arrangements to be put in place.