

11 May 2011

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
G.P.O. Box 9958  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Professor Grenyer

**Re: Consultation Paper 9: Guidelines for the National Psychology Examination**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above Consultation Paper. This submission primarily concerns the exemption the Board is considering applying to candidates who have completed professional Australian accredited Masters and Doctorates within the past five years from the date of their application for general registration.

We strongly support this exemption, and urge the Board to consider the following points:

- Universities already engage an independent organisation, APAC, to approve the programs of study as assessing the standards necessary for general registration. As such, postgraduate candidates complete a number of examinable subjects in order to satisfy the requirements of general registration. It therefore seems superfluous to impose additional examinations that also assess the minimal requirements for general registration.
- There are potential financial costs involved in the examination process which would be in addition to the considerable costs already incurred by Master's and Doctoral students which include ongoing provisional registration fees, university fees, cost of textbooks etc.
- The extra time between graduating and completing the examination process will add to the latency between training and practice. Some students already wait 6 to 12 months between finishing their studies and being able to practice (due to having their thesis marked and having the Board process applications). Adding any further time to this process may result in de-skilling as well as potential workforce shortages.
- It seems especially counter-intuitive for a candidate having completed a professional Masters or Doctorate degree to have to sit an exam for general registration when the registration for endorsement document states that at that time they are ready to enter into a registrar program for the purposes of gaining specialist endorsement.

We also agree with the stipulation that the exemption is applicable up until five years after the completion of the accredited professional postgraduate degree. This seems to be a reasonable limit.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glynda Kinsella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Glynda Kinsella  
Director of Postgraduate Programs  
La Trobe University