

Psychology Board of Australia
c/o Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair
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Melbourne VIC 3001
chair@psychologyboard.gov.au

09 May 2011

Dear Professor Grenyer and Board members,

Re: Consultation Paper 9: National Examination Consultation Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above consultation paper. We would firstly like to express our appreciation for the PBA's responsiveness to many concerns previously raised. We remain very grateful for the continued opportunity for ongoing dialogue.

We would like to endorse the Psychology Registration Board's recommendation that postgraduate trained psychologists are not required to sit the national examination upon generalist registration.

Given that the focus of this examination, as outlined in the consultation paper, cover topics already thoroughly examined within Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) approved postgraduate programs, sitting this exam is unnecessary. In order for APAC to approve postgraduate psychology training programs, the topics covered in the proposed National Examination, must already be satisfactorily met by postgraduate candidates in order that they are awarded their degree. According to the APAC website (www.apac.psychology.org.au), "The accreditation process ensures that standards of education and training in psychology offered by higher education providers are high and are rigorously maintained".

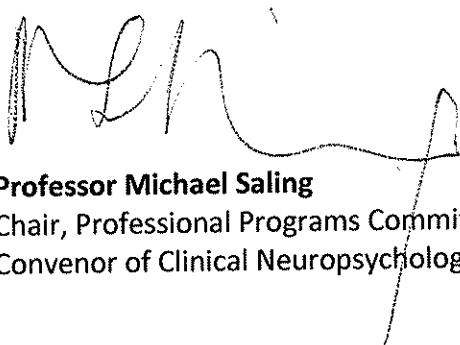
We believe that while it should not be difficult for postgraduate trained psychologists to pass such an exam, the additional cost and potential delay in being able to register because of the examination requirement are not justified. In addition to the administrative costs of postgraduate students completing the exam, further financial burden and deskilling will be faced when graduates have to refrain from employment as registrars until they have completed the proposed exam, particularly since postgraduate students rarely complete their degrees at specified times of the year.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comment. We look forward to the outcome of the consultation paper.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Yoshi Kashima
Acting Head, Psychological Sciences




Professor Michael Saling
Chair, Professional Programs Committee
Convenor of Clinical Neuropsychology

Associate Professor Carol Hulbert
Convenor of Clinical Psychology



Professor Nick Allen
Psychological Sciences



Professor Henry Jackson
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