Consultation – Review of the Guidelines for the national psychology exam

Congratulations on producing a very helpful candidate manual for the exam. I wish to comment on two issues

1. There is an inconsistency in the core competencies mentioned. The Candidate Manual states:

The exam assesses eight core competencies through four exam curriculum domains:

• ethics (including applied ethical and professional reasoning)
• assessment (including methods and approaches)
• intervention (including intervention selection and implementation), and
• communication (including communication and reporting skills).

Whereas the Guidelines state:

Core competencies assessed by the exam

The eight core competencies assessed by the exam are:

• knowledge of the discipline
• ethical, legal and professional matters
• psychological assessment and measurement
• intervention strategies
• research and evaluation
• communication and interpersonal relationships
• working with people from diverse groups and
• practice across the life-span.

2. I am concerned about the proposed exemption of applicants for general registration who have completed the higher degree pathway and apply for general registration because I believe it will allow Organisational Psychology Masters Courses to diverge even further from other courses in psychology. I have supervised many students taking these courses and been dismayed at how narrow they are. The students I have supervised have had no understanding of suicide risk assessment which I believe is essential for all psychologists. They learn a great deal about assessment but almost nothing about intervention and little about broader ethical concerns and professional issues. Similarly I am not certain that students taking Masters courses in sports or coaching psychology can be assumed to have the broad psychological knowledge and skills expected of an early career psychologist. I believe the exemption can be only justified for clinical psychologists.

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