

Consultation 18: Guidelines for the National Psychology Examination

Submission from the Clinical Psychology Reference Group (CPRG) from the Health Department of Western Australia.

We recommend that individuals preparing to undertake endorsement in an area of practice should be exempt from the examination, and that this exemption should not be reconsidered in 2016. Given the rigorous process for accreditation of postgraduate courses in endorsed areas of practice, it is felt that an additional examination presents an unnecessary burden for such graduates.

In undertaking such postgraduate courses, students' knowledge and skills are formally assessed on an ongoing basis using multiple methods including tests, research thesis, essays, reports and strict placement evaluation. We believe that the further inclusion of a one-off multiple choice exam would not add any further reliability to this process, would be redundant, and would provide an unnecessary additional burden to graduates. In addition, it would be difficult for an exam of this type to provide sufficient depth of examination across the range of knowledge of the profession to be a valid measure of readiness to practice.

Furthermore we are concerned that the inclusion of this test may lead to an unhealthy emphasis on passing this test as a basis for success and skew the focus of courses.

It is felt that overseas- trained psychologists who have completed postgraduate training in an endorsed area of practice should also be exempt from the examination where equivalence of study undertaken has been established. If such individuals are required to sit the examination, it may impede international recruitment of highly trained and experienced psychologists.

Kind regards,

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Chair of the Clinical Psychology Reference Group (CPRG)

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