

Thank you for the opportunity to consult on this important matter.

My comments are based upon having been a clinical supervisor in three different fields:

1. My role as a tenured senior lecturer at Curtin University involved me as a supervisor of Mental Health Nursing graduates who were undertaking their internship
2. My role as a supervisor of psychologists in Western Australia
3. My role as a full equity partner in Deloitte's where I supervised registered organisational psychologists who wanted to work in our international management consultancy firm

In all three experiences I found that the following tensions existed:

- a) Ensuring there were enough trained professionals available to satisfy industry and employer demands
- b) Ensuring professionals were competent to practice safely and proficiently immediately upon being employed

Whilst the two factors above should not be competing tensions, my experience found that there was an increasing pressure to satisfy a), sometimes at the risk of jeopardising b) as a consequence.

I therefore respectfully suggest that a minimum internship of 2 years be required before registration as a psychologist is granted. I realise this puts me in the minority but my experience suggests that a minimum of 2 years supervised practice is essential if we are to guarantee the future quality of our profession.

Best wishes

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