

AHPRA Submission for current consultation

To whom it may concern:

Please consider this submission in relation to the current consultation for the 4+2 internship process.

I would like this submission to be **anonymous although I am happy for the content to be publicised without my name.**

The proposed changes in the draft consultation are a significant step in the right direction. Thank you for undertaking this consultation process.

As a provisional psychologist, I would like to propose the following suggestions based on my personal experience, having spent nearly 3 years progressing through my registration and still not having completed it. It has been a highly challenging process.

Life-Span/Cross Cultural Competency

I support the changes related to the life-span/cross cultural competency as suggested in the proposal.

Transitional process

If there are to be new changes to the 4+2 system, there needs to be a clear process of transition for people who have already completed some of the tasks (because they are already in the process) which they may no longer need to do. That is, there needs to be consideration given for any tasks already completed.

The Log Book

The log book should be removed as an obligation as it is challenging to maintain a record of every documentable activity. It could instead be replaced by a system involving recording and reflecting against competences (e.g. monthly or quarterly). This would be a fair way to align the documentation requirements of the 4+2 process and ensure targeted learning occurs.

Placements

It is unclear at this stage whether or not there is a shortage of placements as there has been little research in this regard. If there is a shortage of placements it is unclear what the cause of the shortage may be. I would therefore like to suggest that there is a formal inquiry into the number of placements available relative to the number of provisional psychologists seeking them. I believe there is probably a shortage of placements. For employers, it may be the complexity of the process, cost to the employer (or supervisee) and AHPRA's requirements, which may be a disincentive for organisations to take on provisional psychologists. It is important to consider ways to increase the likelihood of more placements becoming available by reviewing how to make the 4+2 process as straightforward as possible.

The 5+1 program as 4+1+1

I suggest that it be considered that the 5th year psychology program be also available to be undertaken after a year of placement. At present, students would have to start their 2 year program again if they have done a year of placement and wish to do the 5th year program.

Assessments

In general the proposed changes to assessments seem fair. The changes permitting fewer assessments and a simulated learning environment are both worthwhile and practical changes.

The Case Studies

It would seem reasonable that as an exam has been added, this is balanced by reducing other aspects of the assessment process-this suggestion is contrary to the current proposal to increase the number of case studies.

I also propose that in relation to the case studies, that only 1 be required to be sent to AHPRA with the rest, being evaluated by the supervisor. The dialogue between the provisional psychologist and the supervisor is the most valuable part of the learning process with regards to the case studies.

AHPRA

Relevant questions AHPRA officers are asked with regards to the 4+2 process should be added to an online FAQ so provisional psychologists will not ask questions where the answer has been provided to a provisional psychologist previously.

It is also suggested that there be one or more provisional psychologists represented on decision making committees (e.g. at AHPRA or the Psychology Board) where issues related to 4+2 provisional psychologists are discussed.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Yours Sincerely