

Hello

Please find attached my submission to the current consultation in relation to exempting higher degree graduates from the National Psychology Exam. I do not support the proposed change, which would remove the existing exemption for higher degree students, for the following reasons.

1. Firstly, as I understand it, the National Psychology examination was initially implemented in order to ensure a common level of understanding in relation to graduates of 4+2 courses. As such, it covers material which is generally of a relatively basic level, and which should be expected to be known by graduates at the end of four years of study. For those who progress to Masters or Doctorate programs, they then enter into a specialised training course, which focusses their attention on matters of relevance to their area. For example, in the organisational psychology domain, the focus is on organisational systems, processes, diagnostics and interventions, to improve the wellbeing and effectiveness of organisations. As such, the material covered is of less use or relevance to many higher degree students. However, by studying for and completing the National Examination, where the focus is largely on clinical and testing matters, this could lead to a perception of knowledge for some practitioners and encourage them to practice outside their area of skill or competence.
2. Secondly, this test, which is largely focussed on clinical matters, does not appear to be representative of the broad domain of psychology, and hence has little relevance to many practitioners, but places an unnecessary and unwarranted cost and time burden on students at the end of their studies.
3. Thirdly, whilst professional courses are accredited by APAC, individual students are already required to demonstrate their knowledge abilities across a range of competency assessments. I feel that adding another examination is redundant for this cohort.
4. Fourthly, this proposed examination removes one potential incentives for students to pursue higher qualifications, which would be presumably desirable as an added protection and upskilling of the workforce.

Thanks in anticipation of your consideration of this submission

Regards

**Elizabeth Clancy**