

30th September 2015

Dear Psychology Board of Australia

Re: Consultation paper 25: Consultation on ending the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Examination

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this consultation paper, which I have read with keen interest.

I do not support the Board ending the exemption for provisional psychologists undertaking the higher degree pathway from sitting the National Psychology Exam. I am currently studying in an APAC accredited higher degree program. As part of this program, and as stipulated by APAC, I have been required to complete a large number of assessments in my coursework, placements, and research. These assessments have varied greatly in nature and all have been “competency-based assessments of the integration of knowledge and skills in psychology” (p. 8) as the Board describes the National Psychology Examination. Therefore, the introduction of another assessment, in form of an examination, at a considerable financial cost to students is not warranted in my opinion. I also find it concerning that the Board proposes that accreditation does not “assure competence to practice as a registered psychologist for individual graduates” (p. 8). I am not sure if I or my fellow students would have elected to pursue a higher degree pathway if the Board had this opinion of the accreditation process.

Although I do not support the Board ending the exemption, if it were to be ended, my preference for transition requirements would be option b. As one of the students who enrolled in a higher degree program prior to the publication of the guidelines, this would give our group the time to apply for general registration before 1 July 2017.

Thank you for your consideration of my response.

Yours sincerely

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