

To the Psychology Board of Australia,

I would like to express my opposition to the proposed changes to retire the 4+2 pathway.

If the 4+2 pathway is retired:

- There are hundreds of undergraduate students enrolling into four year psychology degrees at Australian universities who will not be able to have any specific qualification or prospect of employment. This information will NOT BE CLEARLY outlined by the Psychology Board of Australia to prospective psychology students, based on my previous experience. This is unethical to provide undergraduate degrees without opportunity for registration.
- Where is the Psychology Board of Australia's ethical obligation to provide *reasonable* opportunity for ALL psychology undergraduates to be able to be admitted into a 5+1 or masters university course? The current (minimal numbers per university) of entry limits to these courses is appalling as compared to entry numbers (hundreds per state) to undergraduate psychology degrees. Potential/Psychology undergraduates are not clearly informed of the great difficulty and minimal places on offer to masters and 5+1 programs BEFORE they enroll in psychology undergraduate courses.
- Students will graduate with a worthless four year degree in psychology, not be eligible for the title of psychologist (or provisional psychologist) and this will bring disrepute to the profession. The Australian community will see these undergraduates as psychologists given that is there university qualification. Without registration there is NO ETHICS that these graduates will have to adhere to. Other positions (i.e. counsellor) do not hold the same regulatory and ethical standards as that of the psychology profession.
- Have ALL undergraduate psychology students in Australia been asked for their opinion on this? I am sure they will be able to provide feedback of the imminent effects of this change on their futures. Compulsory consultation with all undergraduate students should form part of this consultation process.
- I am a 4+2 psychologist, who practices as a registered psychologist, upholding our profession and ethics because I had the opportunity to complete a 4 year undergraduate psychology degree and work while completing my registration. I have recently completed my masters, part time over several years. Having the opportunity to work as a registered psychologist allowed me to afford the fees to complete my masters and have an income to support my family. Without being able to be a registered psychologist, I could not have afforded masters. I would not have enrolled in undergraduate psychology if I could not have had a (registered titled) qualification after four years. I foresee that many undergraduate students will NOT CHOOSE psychology if this is not an option because the 4+2 gets retired.
- Come up with a better plan, to allow psychology undergraduates a guarantee of being able to hold a title of psychologist (whether this be through keeping the 4+2

or GUARANTEEING AUTOMATIC ENTRY INTO A 5+1 or masters program)
for ALL psychology undergraduates. Until then keep the status quo.

Yours sincerely

Julie Waller

Psychologist (4+2)