

Consultation – Reducing regulatory burden: Retirement of the 4+2 internship pathway to general registration.

To Psychology Board of Australia,

I am writing to express my point of view and concerns in relation to the proposed retirement of the 4+2 pathway to registration. After studying Psychology at University, I am currently in the first few months of completing the 4+2 internship. I reside in Melbourne and work in community mental health.

I believe that I have excellent communications skills, and a genuine interest in helping other people. I know that like my peers, the idea of completing a Masters of Clinical Psychology is the ultimate dream. However, with each University offering merely 10-12 positions to students who receive high HD averages and charging \$60,000+ in HECS, I have accepted that it is unlikely to ever happen. While I my marks were above average at University, unfortunately I was part of a 'pipeline' education system that plagues Psychology.

As such, I was made to choose from 3 pathways: 4+2, 5+1 or something else entirely. After feeling pretty depressed from the stress and competition during my fourth year of psychology studies, I decided the 5+1 wasn't for me. As I knew I still loved Psychology, this left me with the 4+2 option. Despite initial hesitation, I have come to really enjoy the practicality that this pathway offers.

For myself and others, retiring the 4+2 pathway has a number of negative ramifications that aren't able to be easily rectified. For instance:

- 1) Becoming a psychologist in Australia becomes near impossible for anyone in a remote or rural area, anyone who lives in one of the 3 states who do not have a 5+1 option.
- 2) Doing the 5+1 is not financially for many viable given than many of the 'good' internships that students who do this pathway take on are unpaid. This is true, you only need to ask the 5+1 graduates to realize this.
- 3) Ruling out 4+2 as an option has inevitable consequences on the reputation and regard many psychologists will be given in the professional, academic world. This is especially true for young psychologists who may not retire for 40 years. Who will protect us?

Thank you for your time.