

I am writing concerning the consultation paper regarding the proposal to retire the 4+2 internship pathway. I am currently an enrolled psychology university student at Murdoch University who is against the retirement of the 4+2 pathway.

I chose to study psychology with the idea of becoming a provisionally registered psychologist.

When I enrolled, I was advised one of the pathways to registration as a psychologist was to undertake the 4-year university study and then undertake two years of internship/supervision.

I think having different enrolment pathways to suit different individuals needs is a great asset and think retiring the 4+2 pathway would further limit ways of becoming a registered

Psychologist. Some students find it easy to source an internship. There are also those who already have contacts to source internships, where there is no issue at all. Too, those who need to work (as part of their internship) and are not able to afford further study. As such the 4+2 pathway is the better means for those individuals to progress towards registration

I would also like to draw attention to students in their first year or those looking to choose psychology as a career pathway that will be enrolling in university in 2018 or 2019. As such, I believe any future student should be forewarned about the years of study and pathway to supervision, before choosing that career or study. With that said, I would like to put forward the Board considers at least five years until they may consider retiring the 4+2 pathway, so any future student is aware of the requirements and pathways to become a registered psychologist.

In summary, for these reasons, I am against the retirement of the 4+2 pathway. However, should there be a decision to retire it; with integrity and future students making educational choices, I believe it should be retired in 5 years at the end of 2023 (or the start of 2024).

Kind regards,
Kirstin Tapper
1/6/2018