

To whom it may concern

I am writing in relation to the consultation paper regarding the proposal to retire the 4+2 internship pathway. I am currently an enrolled psychology university student at Murdoch University. I am against the retirement of the 4+2 pathway, as I chose to study psychology with a view of becoming a provisionally registered Psychologist after 4 years. When I enrolled as a psychology student I was advised of the option available after completion of 4 years of study. If the 4+2 is retired many students like myself will be affected, as admission into the 5th year is even more competitive than a placement in 4th year.

I think having different enrolment pathways to suit different individuals needs is a great asset and retirement of the 4+2 would limit available option for undergraduate students. If the 4+2 pathway is retired I think there should be an automatic admission into 5th year. I think 4th and 5th year should become a combined as a postgraduate degree. I also think there are many students that can not afford another year of university and having the 4+2 option allows those individuals and opportunity to start earning an income whilst being an intern.

If the decision is made to retire the 4+2 pathway I think it needs to at a later date. Students that have only enrolled in 1st year psychology have done so with the premise that they are able to do a 4+2 pathway. I think that once the decision to retire the 4+2 has been made, all future students need to be forewarned. Allowing them the opportunity to understand there may not be enough available spaces in the 5+1 model and as such they may complete 4 years of psychology studies and still be unable to become a registered psychologist.

In summary I am against the retirement of the 4+2 pathway. Should the decision be to retire this pathway, then it needs to be after 2024 allowing for up and coming students the opportunity to make informed educational decisions. I think the implementation of a postgraduate degree containing 4th and 5th years, would be my preferred outcome should the decision of retirement accepted by the board.

Kind regards
Kris Knight
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