

Consultation – Proposal to retire the 4+2 internship pathway

To whom it may concern,

I wish to voice my concern over the proposal to retire the 4+2 pathway in such short notice.

As a student enrolled in my final year of Master of Teaching (School Counselling) at the University of Sydney, I am concerned over the impact that the decision will have on my career objective to be a registered psychologist. Given that my chosen path was to work within the educational sector as a psychologist, the masters' programs available in that domain include one in Queensland and one in Victoria, simply not feasible, to not only me, but also many other colleagues in my situation. When exploring the career pathways, the Master of Teaching (School Counselling) was chosen under the proviso of being able to complete the 4+2 pathway once that is completed. Which would total 9 years of training, but well worth it to get to my chosen career and work regionally, as the 5+1 pathway was not identified as a possible pathway at the time I was looking, with specific regard to the Department of Education.

Whilst it is possible to achieve supervision 6 months from graduating in an urban area, for those of us who are moving to rural or remote areas to offer psychological support and guidance in our schools, the proposed window of 30 June 2019 is simply too constraining. Which leads to my request for an extension of three years, to 30 June 2021, as a more suitable date to retire the 4+2 pathway. This date extension would not only allow more time for those students who have chosen similar pathways to begin the pathway without threat of having to add another year of full-time study should there be difficulties with the paperwork, but may also allow time for higher education providers to prepare for the greater influx of applicants they can expect to get. Allowing opportunity to hopefully open-up the number of positions available for those masters that are already in demand.

Thank-you for taking the time to read through my request.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Kostrin