

'Consultation – Proposal to retire the 4+2 internship pathway'

Attention to Psychology Board

My name is Metin Erok and I am an equity student at Murdoch university with a recognised disability looking at completing the graduate diploma (equivalent 4<sup>th</sup> year) over the next two years with the aspiration of becoming a registered psychologist through the 4+2 internship pathway.

I have worked towards this goal since 2008 with strong passion and good results; however, my condition inhibits my capacity to study a full time load. It has thus taken considerable time and much dedication to get to where I am currently. As such, it concerns me that the Board has decided to retire the 4+2 pathway within proposed time periods that will more than likely deny me completing my study in time to meet requirements for registration. I am thus providing personal feedback in the hope that it may have an impact and be taken into consideration when the Board makes its final decision.

I believe the Board should cater for students with disabilities and who are limited due to circumstances outside of their control and who may not be able to finalise requirements by the proposed retirement dates (it will take me approximately 5 years to meet registration requirements with the 4+2 pathway). I feel that doing otherwise would be unfair on those of us who have come so far in their study and to which there is no substitute. Although there is the 5+1 pathway, approximately 50% of students in 4<sup>th</sup> year will gain entry as it is highly competitive. For students with disabilities, this is more challenging and time consuming than the 4+2 pathway even while having a distinction standing.

I appreciate that the 4+2 pathway is difficult due to limited supervision availability, however, it is possible and one that I have been working towards for considerable time. I would greatly appreciate the Board being cognisant of this and other student with disabilities when making their decision by either not retiring the pathway at all or at least by allowing more time than the dates currently being proposed for its retirement.

Kind regards

Metin Erok