

I completed the 4+2 pathway under 3 years ago.

While it was one of the most stressful experiences of my academic / working career to date, I am grateful I had the choice.

My personal circumstances would have made it difficult to access Masters. I live in Wynyard, Tasmania; I became pregnant with my first child shortly after completing my Honours year; and our only university, UTAS, offers Masters in Hobart (4 1/2 hours away). So I chose the 4 plus 2 pathway. This allowed me to work part time, with the support of my local family.

The 4 plus 2 program has come along way, and I believe I gained well rounded skills from it. Dare I say it, but I even feel the 4+2 program has also given me good clinical skills. I am now a School Psychologist and also work a day in Private Practice. I am well regarded by colleagues and clients as being a great Psychologist.

In the area I live NEARLY ALL psychs are 4+2. We have a shortage in Psychologists where I live. This year there have been at least six positions that I know have just gone left vacant on the North West Coast of Tasmania. In positions like Child and Adolescent Mental Health, the Child Development Unit, Adult Mental Health, Diabetes Unit, Rehab, and in Private Practice.

In my School Psychology team, we went through a period of perhaps 4 years where not many 4+2's were hired due to the new requirements brought in with AHPRA (I was lucky to get a position), however in the last 2 years this has changed. We currently have more provisionals than ever before. I believe there are at least 8 in the north of the state. That is a significant percentage of the workforce. I have also observed this trend in the NW Coast in general, with other organisations putting on more provisionals in the last few years.

My 4 plus 2 program was incredibly stressful, and I was unsure if I would be able to complete it. At the time it was mandatory to work across the lifespan, which required me to get a second job. I tried to set up a second work role / placement many times, but was constantly knocked back due to a lack of supervisors wanting to do the new requirements. Eventually i got an amazing position and finished my 4+2 program. I am please to see that these requirements have relaxed. However also know that it was my adult placement was an amazing learning opportunity.

Please leave new grads and organisations the choice.

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