

Sarah Barber

Psychology Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Consultation – Proposal to retire the 4+2 internship pathway

I am writing to request that the Board consider the latest possible transition deadline of the 4+2 internship pathway. I am currently undertaking a Master of Teaching (School Counselling) at the University of Sydney, with the intention of becoming a school counsellor in the public education system. The Department of Education (DoE) recognises that this is an area of workforce need, and to this end provides supervision for school counsellors under the 4+2 internship program to meet registration requirements. However, as my cohort has only just commenced our postgraduate studies, we will not be able to enrol in the 4+2 internship program until we are employed with the DoE at the beginning of 2020. Retiring the 4+2 internship pathway any sooner than this date would mean that registration would not be possible, despite the considerable economic and personal sacrifice to commence a degree in which this pathway was previously available.

It is understood that there are three transition deadline alternatives under consideration, where the last enrolment to begin a 4+2 internship program will either be 30 June 2019, 30 June 2020 or 30 June 2021. The Board states that regardless of which option is agreed upon by stakeholders, “students who are currently undertaking a 4<sup>th</sup> year program will have time to complete their studies and enrol in the internship before the deadline.” However, this is not the case for students who have commenced a postgraduate degree that is not recognised under the six-year accredited sequence, such as the Master of Teaching (School Counselling) program. For this reason, it is requested that the Board consider the earliest transition deadline to be 30 June 2021. This would allow students currently undertaking formal and intensive training in core psychologist competencies sufficient time to enrol in the internship.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Barber. B.Psych (Hons I)