

Rural and remote mental health needs are well known for being underserved.

Attracting and keeping mental health professionals in these regions is an ongoing battle. Upskilling people already living in these areas, compared to enticing those from outside, has many benefits, including an increase in the likelihood of that person remaining in the region for the duration of their working life.

People living in non-metropolitan areas have less access to available university courses, with the added burden that entry into online courses for Psych honours and masters are both limited and highly competitive.

With all of this in mind, if the PsyBA moves forward with the idea of stopping the 4+2 internship pathway, then it is highly likely this will result in a reduction in the number of mental health professionals living in rural and remote areas.

With respect, I would strongly suggest that the 4+2 pathway remain in its current format to ensure that all Australians have the best possible chance of living with the mental health support that they need.

Regards,
Scott Daley