

To the Psychology Board of Australia,

25/05/2018

As a current school counsellor in training completing my final year at the University of Sydney (Master of Teaching (School Counselling)), it is disappointing to have received the news regarding the proposal to retire the 4+2 internship pathway of registration. I know that like many of my colleagues, a significant reason I chose to undertake this course was because it would provide me with a pathway towards general registration as a psychologist.

Once we graduate, the NSW Department of Education's system of allocation tends to place school counsellors in the urban and rural teaching areas of greatest need, which is completely understandable. However, this results in many newer graduates often operating within the same teaching area, each seeking professional supervision towards general registration as a psychologist. Therefore, opportunities for supervision from senior psychologists in the team may be limited and often there will be a waiting list for supervision. New graduates consequently may not be able to begin the registration process for several years.

Therefore, if the currently proposed transition period of five years could be extended by at least three years, it would be greatly appreciated by all my colleagues in school counselling who have yet to begin the registration process, including those currently in the workforce awaiting opportunities for supervision, and fellow members of my university cohort.

Sincerely,



William Chen