

Michael Fajardo

Psychology Board of Australia

GPO Box 9958

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Psychology Board of Australia,

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.

Currently I am undertaking the Master of Teaching (School Counselling) at The University of Sydney, with the intention of working as a School Counsellor in the State system. The Department of Education (DoE) recognises that more School Counsellors are needed so the department provides supervision to support registration via the internship pathway.

My cohort—which commenced study in 2018—will not be able to enrol in the 4+2 internship program until the beginning 2020 when we commence our employment with the DoE and even then, we are not guaranteed supervision in our first year of employment. Retiring the 4+2 internship pathway sooner than this date would make registration impossible, 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 to be on June 30 of either year 2019, 2020 or 2021. The Board states that regardless of which option is agreed upon by stakeholders, “*students who are currently undertaking a 4th year program will have time to complete their studies and enrol in the internship before the deadline.*” 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 or provide specific exemptions or adjustments to accommodate the unique position of School Counsellors.

Yours truly,

Michael Fajardo

MPH, BPsych(Hons)