

31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Dear Psychology Board of Australia,

The Clinical PhD students at Flinders University would like to provide the following feedback regarding the permanent exemption for higher degree Psychology students having to sit the National Psychology exam prior to general registration.

We support the exemption, and our reasons are outlined below. In terms of protecting the public, the postgraduate course is taught by professionals who are accredited, registered and thus have met these safety standards. Additionally, we undergo continuous assessment in our coursework, with a minimum pass mark of 75%. As well as this, there are penalties within the course should we fail to meet the pass mark a certain number of times. As a result, we will have already met the minimum core competencies outlined by APAC by the end of our postgraduate degree. In addition to our coursework, we also undertake ongoing reviews and supervision during our placement units on ethics and to ensure that we meet competency standards. As part of this, we are required to undertake a number of different kind of placement hours (face to face, supervision), undertake placements with a variety of providers, and as such have exposure to a number of different assessment and therapy techniques. As a such, this protects the public and ensures that we meet the core competencies to be able to practice as psychologists in Australia.

We believe that due to the ongoing assessment during our postgraduate training, taking the National Psychology Exam would be unnecessary regulation in the training pathway.

Thank-you for your consideration of our feedback,

Clinical PhD Cohort at Flinders University

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