

Psychology Board of Australia

Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair

GPO Box 9958

Melbourne, VIC 3001

Dear Professor Grenyer and members of the Psychology Board of Australia,

Re: Consultation Paper 9: National Examination Consultation Paper

I write to share my opinion on the recently released PBA consultation paper 9, which pertains to a national examination for progression from provisional to general registration. I acknowledge and concur with the PBA's objective of establishing a minimum standard of knowledge for psychologists across Australia. I also wish to register my wholehearted support for the PBA's proposal to exempt recent graduates of accredited Masters and Doctor of Psychology degrees from sitting this examination as they pursue general registration.

The PBA's suggestion to exempt these individuals is, I believe, a sensible recognition of the significant checks already in place on the calibre of graduates of these programs. These postgraduate training programs must already be accredited by an independent body, the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). Universities are then empowered to pass (or fail) students according to their successful (or otherwise) progression through their programs. Students must display sufficient knowledge **both** by formal examination within the university setting **and** on placement to the satisfaction of external clinical supervisors. Students who fail to gain an adequate level of knowledge and practical skill consequently fail to graduate

with their degree and are not in a position to seek general registration. According to the APAC website (www.apac.psychology.org.au), “The accreditation process ensures that standards of education and training in psychology offered by higher education providers are high and are rigorously maintained”. As the PBA acknowledges in consultation paper 9, this process ensures these degrees provide a high quality of training, almost always focussing on **both** general and specialist fields of psychological knowledge and practice. Exempting graduates of accredited Masters and Doctorate programs from further formal examination recognises that substantial monitoring of training quality is already in place, and reflects the capacity of universities to judge the satisfactory progression of their students. Conversely, requiring these graduates to sit further examination would place an additional and unnecessary burden of time and cost to them and to those administering and scoring this examination.

Again, I endorse the PBA’s stated aim of ensuring consistency across the psychology workforce in Australia, and their stance on exempting recent graduates of accredited Masters and Doctorate programs. I hope that my comments are of some use in this consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

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