

Response to questions

1 - Do you agree with the Board's proposal to consider education and training reform, including focusing on reducing regulatory burden, as an important next step in the development of the regulatory environment for psychology

Yes

2 - Which do you consider is the best option for reducing regulatory burden? Please provide reasons for your stated preference:

- option one - status quo
- option two - retirement of the 4+2 pathway to general registration
- none of these options, or another option.

Option 2 - the 4+2 program is no longer a viable, safe or cutting edge program for training psychologists in Australia. Australia is a country that should be leading the world in the training of mental health professionals. We need to ensure our training options reflect this.

3 - Are there any specific impacts (positive or negative) or advantages/disadvantages for each of the two options that have not been outlined in the paper?

Paper is quite comprehensive - congratulations. The consultation process will hopefully determine if the retirement of the 4+2 program is viewed as a positive move by other professions that interact regularly with psychologists. For example, I would hope that GP's who refer to psychologists would find these changes a positive step forward for ensuring the quality of practising psychologists is more tightly regulated.

4 - Are there any specific risks (for each of the two options) that have not been outlined in the paper?

If the program is retired, those who have trained recently in the 4+2 model may find there are doubts cast about their capabilities. Could this disadvantage them in seeking employment when competing against those in the other programs? Will efforts need to be made to ensure there isn't discrimination against the last group of individuals moving through the 4+2 program.

5 - If you prefer option two, do you support the Board making the changes (update/delete) to the standards, guidelines, fact sheets and forms as outlined in Attachment G-J to retire the 4+2 internship pathway

Yes

6 - If you prefer option two, which transition option do you prefer and why?

option a): last enrolment in the 4+2 internship is 30 June 2019

option b): last enrolment in the 4+2 internship is 30 June 2020

option c): last enrolment in the 4+2 internship is 30 June 2021

none of these options or another option (please specify)

7 - From your perspective, can you identify any practical issues in retiring the 4+2 internship pathway?

SA has no 5+1 programs, although I am not too fussed by this arrangement, as I have a preference for the masters and PhD programs, rather than the 5+1.

8 - Is the content and structure of the consultation paper helpful, clear, relevant and understandable? If not, what needs to change?

The paper is comprehensively prepared - and relatively easy to read. I will say that it is a significant investment of time to read and process this report. This may impact on the numbers and types of professions that provide feedback. Psychologists may be willing to spend this time because they are intimately affected, However other professions (the opinion of which I am most interested) may find it too onerous to try and absorb the full report. My suggestion therefore is an executive summary with the key questions outlined earlier. You could then link to sections of the report that provide the relevant information required for a reader to consider the question intelligently. I am mindful that such simplification of the issue may cloud important aspects that aren't obvious until the full report is written - so this suggestion is given with some caution.

Is there anything else the National Board should take into account in its proposal, such as impacts on workforce or access to health services that have not been outlined in the paper?

Data on the difference in earnings for 4+2 versus other training pathways might be interesting. Costs to 4+2 trainees are well considered. But is there an earning advantage down the track because a number of them move immediately into the work setting in which they trained?