

College of Psychological Practice

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COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION PAPER ON REGISTRATION STANDARDS AND RELATED MATTERS.

1. The role of private providers of registration programs such as the College of Psychological Practice is not acknowledged in the consultation paper. Such colleges collectively cater for well over two hundred interns in NSW at any one time. While we cannot comment on the particulars of other such institutions, we are of the view that this College's structured learning processes, focus on the acquisition of practical core skills and competency based assessments set a quality benchmark standard for supervision programmes in the marketplace and this should be recognised by the Board. Accordingly we ask that consideration be given for those private colleges which meet prescribed standards be accredited by the Board and recognised as an alternative training pathway.
2. In relation to the proposed qualification requirements for general registration, we strongly support the continuation of the 4 + 2 pathway. Any proposed change should be evidence based and we are yet to see the evidence that a 5+1 pathway will produce more competent psychologists than the 4+2 pathway. Moreover, a fifth year of university study could financially put the profession out of reach of many prospective intern psychologists many of whom have already incurred substantial HECS debts. Being able to earn an income after four years of university study is a significant motivator for many of our interns.

Lawrence Fong
Director