



15 May 2019

Psychology Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
Melbourne, Vic. 3001  
Sent via email to: [psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au)

Dear Psychology Board of Australia

**RE: Consultation – National psychology exam: Guidelines Review.**

Thank you for opening the Review of the Guidelines for the National Psychology Exam for public consultation. The Department of Psychological Sciences at Swinburne University of Technology offers one APAC-accredited postgraduate 5th and 6th year course (Master of Psychology - Clinical Psychology); and two 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th year of study courses (Doctor of Philosophy - Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Psychology - Clinical and Forensic Psychology). As educators of students, for which this Review impacts, we are pleased to be given an opportunity to provide feedback.

We wish to specifically respond to the proposal to make a higher degree exemption from sitting the exam permanent, meaning that graduates with a board-approved postgraduate qualification accredited at the fifth and sixth year of study (as well as doctoral students) will not be required to pass the exam before applying for general registration.

We wholeheartedly agree that a permanent exemption would create certainty for higher degree students, education providers and supervisors about the Board's requirements for registration. While we agree that the exam is one regulatory tool that the Board may use to ensure that all applicants for general registration have obtained a minimum level of applied professional knowledge of psychology, we would like to reassure the Board that our APAC-accredited postgraduate psychology courses are designed and delivered with the protection of the public in mind. Many internal mechanisms exist within the coursework and professional placement units to ensure that students fulfil the expected standards of the profession prior to graduation. Therefore, by the time a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year qualified student applies for general registration, we believe that they are suitably trained in the core competencies assessed by the exam, and therefore qualified to practise psychology in a competent and ethical manner.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be consulted and for us to share our support of this important proposal.

Yours sincerely,



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