

To whom it may concern,

RE: Public Consultation – Review of the Guidelines for the National Psychology Exam.

Thank you for seeking comment from interested parties concerning the Psychology Board of Australia's public consultation on the 'Review of the Guidelines for the National Psychology Exam'. Please find my submission below.

1. Which option do you prefer – the status quo or option 2 (proposed changes)?

I support the Board's preferred option, Option 2.

2. Are you in support of separating the guidelines into two documents: a guideline and a manual? Please provide a rationale for your review.

Yes, I support the separation of the guidelines into the two documents, a guideline document containing the regulatory and policy information, and a manual containing the operational information, requirements, and rules pertaining to the exam. It is evident a considerable amount of work has been done to ensure the respective documents are easier for candidates to access and navigate to find the most pertinent information. Moreover, I see the value in having a separate dynamic manual that can be updated with the most relevant information as needs be to assist those sitting the exam.

3. Are you in support of making the higher degree exemption from sitting the exam permanent? Please provide a rationale for your review.

Yes, I support making the higher degree exemption from sitting the exam permanent. Upon completion of my undergraduate degree I decided to apply and enrol in a board approved APAC accredited post-graduate program rather than pursue an alternative path to general registration. The main driver for this decision was the fact that the program I am currently enrolled in meets the rigorous APAC accreditation standards for a psychology program. I was made aware these new standards align with the International declaration of core competencies in professional psychology for all entry level psychologists. It is evident the courses and rigorous assessment in this program is focused on ensuring we are able to provide a safe service to the general public. Upon completion of my post-graduate program I know I will have the necessary skills and confidence to practice in a safe, competent, and ethical manner. It is on this basis that I strongly feel that at the completion of this sequence of study it would be an unreasonable requirement for graduates sit an additional examination designed to test these exact standards. It appears this will result in an unnecessary bureaucratic process of duplication of assessment of competencies already included in these courses.

4. Is the content that needs to be changed, deleted or added into the guidelines?

No, I do not think any of the content in the guideline needs to be changed, deleted or added.

5. Is there any content that needs to be changed, deleted or added into the exam failure policy?

No, I do not think any of the content in the exam failure policy needs to be changed, deleted or added.

6. Is there any content that needs to be changed, deleted into the manual?

I note the proposed manual provides great detail in terms of a description of the general content of the exam, the preparation required, instruction for sitting the exam, and the exam curriculum. However, the manual does appear to be at odds with the current position outlined in the exam FAQ located on the Board's website. The website FAQ does make an allowance for those sitting the exam to leave a clear unlabelled bottle of water with the exam supervisor and access if it is needed. On the other hand it appears the manual provides those sitting the exam will not be permitted to have water with them during the exam. I do appreciate the concern to safeguard the computer equipment, however I do think it is a particularly long exam to not have access to water especially for those who may feel particularly stressed. May I respectfully suggest a change to this restriction in the manual to be consistent with the exam FAQ on the Board's website to allow those sitting the exam to leave a clear unlabelled bottle of water with the exam supervisor and access if it is needed. There is the possibility of adding in a provision that there will be no extra time allowed in the exam to access this water.

7. Are you in support of the areas where the Board proposes no change (pass grade, overall pass mark, when to sit the exam, exam fee)?

Yes, I am in support of the areas where the Board proposes no change, specifically no change in the pass grade, overall pass mark, when to sit the exam, and exam fee.

8. Are there other specific impacts (positive or negative) arising from the proposal for practitioners, higher degree providers, employers, clients/consumers that need to be considered?

None.

9. Is the content and structure of the proposed standard helpful, clear, relevant and workable?

Yes it contains all the relevant information you would need to

10. Do you have any other comments on the proposal?

None.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

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