

Psychology Board of Australia
C/- APHRA
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2/10/15

Dear Psychology Board of Australia

I am writing this as a brief submission with regards to the Consultation paper 25: Consultation on ending the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Examination.

I support that the exemption continue for postgraduate degree graduates not to undertake the National Psychology Examination for the following reasons:

- The higher degree pathway has its own very thorough process of assessment that does not warrant a National Psychology Exam as an additional assessment requirement. Indeed I would argue that this is also the case for the current 4 plus 2 pathway, and that a regular exam would not be the most effective way to measure a psychologist's competency irrespective of which pathway they took to become registered.
- The Examination itself focuses on assessing knowledge rather than assessing a practitioner's skills, and as such may not effectively screen for the required key essential skills of a psychologist.
- Multi-modality assessment is optimal rather than using a single Exam approach. An Exam assessment may result in reducing the range of skills and knowledge that is required to practice consistently and competently as a Psychologist today.

Many thanks for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Berthelsen

Psychologist