

# Neuropsychology Student's Society



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Date: 12 May 2011

Professor Brin Grenyer  
Chair, Psychology Board Examination Consultation  
[chair@psychologyboard.gov.au](mailto:chair@psychologyboard.gov.au)

Dear Professor Grenyer:

The Neuropsychology Student's Society [NSS] would like to strongly endorse the Psychology Registration Board's recommendation that postgraduate-trained psychologists are made exempt from sitting the proposed National Psychology Examination upon generalist registration. The NSS is an independent, not for profit, student-run society of postgraduate students undertaking APAC accredited Masters and Doctoral neuropsychology courses across Melbourne.

Postgraduate psychology students already meet the rigorous national standards for the education and training of psychologists set down by APAC and the Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008. The curriculum of the National Psychology Examination is commended for its comprehensive assessment of a broad range of professional capabilities. This curriculum, however, is already thoroughly taught to postgraduate psychology students in APAC accredited university courses. The eight capabilities covered by the National Psychology Examination are formally examined across a variety of formats -written exams, reports, practicum, essays, placement supervision- as part of these accredited courses to ensure that all postgraduate psychology students in Australia demonstrate a high level of understanding and aptitude across the domains outlined in the consultation paper. To re-assess us via the National Psychology Examination would therefore be highly redundant.

Exempting postgraduate psychology students from having to sit the National Psychology Examination would also relieve them of further financial and vocational costs. Not only would the National Psychology Examination place an additional and unnecessary financial burden on postgraduate students, it would also further delay our entry into the profession as we are not allowed to practice in the same independent manner as a provisional psychologist undertaking an unaccredited two-year internship would. As the exam would likely only be held at certain times of year, it would not only unfairly postpone the commencement of our careers; it would also have the potential to deny some postgraduate students of several months' income.

The NSS contends that the National Psychology Examination is an excellent initiative to ensure that the high standards set by APAC and AHPRA are systematically upheld across psychologists in Australia, including provisional psychologists undertaking an unaccredited 2-year internship, as well as psychologists trained overseas, those returning to work after lengthy periods of absence, and clinicians whose professional competence has been called into question. **We strongly believe, however, that the National Psychology Examination is not appropriate for Masters and Doctoral students whose understanding of the curriculum has already been formally assessed and certified by APAC-accredited universities.**

Thank-you for your consideration of our submission on this discussion paper.

Sincerely,

Neuropsychology Student's Society Executive Committee,  
*on behalf of the Neuropsychology Student's Society*