



Chief Health Professions Office

10 May 2011

Re: Psychology Board of Australia Consultation Paper – Guidelines for the National Psychology Examination (Consultation Paper 9).

The Office supports the development of an examination for general psychologists as part of the registration process. However, there is concern that the draft guideline requirements go beyond the training of 4+2 or 5+1 applicants. Whatever examination implemented, it needs to be fair and geared to the level of training of the 4+2 and 5+1 applicants. These requirements would likely be difficult for individuals with masters training to pass.

It is felt that D1.4 is unnecessary and not central to the training of psychologists.

The recommended readings are extensive and again felt to cover information that exceeds that which is required from the current training of 4+2 and 5+1 applicants.

The limited extensions appear to be appropriate.

It is not felt that applicants from overseas countries that require masters or doctoral training for registration as psychologists to be required to take this examination. Such a requirement could become an impediment to international recruitment of psychologists trained at this level. However, the requirement for overseas-trained psychologists to take an examination that focuses on the Australian context - APS ethics, national registration law and board rules, indigenous cultural issues - would be considered appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these draft guidelines.

Dr Deborah Wilmoth
Chief Health Professions Officer
Level 2B, Department of Health
189 Royal St, East Perth 6004
Western Australia
Ph : +61 8 92222493
Fax: +61 8 92220242
www.ochpo.health.wa.gov.au