

‘Consultation – Review of the Guidelines for the national psychology exam

Congratulations on producing a very helpful candidate manual for the exam. I wish to comment on two issues

1. There is an inconsistency in the core competencies mentioned. The Candidate Manual states:

The exam assesses eight core competencies through four exam curriculum domains:

- ethics (including applied ethical and professional reasoning)
- assessment (including methods and approaches)
- intervention (including intervention selection and implementation), and
- communication (including communication and reporting skills).

Whereas the Guidelines state:

Core competencies assessed by the exam

The eight core competencies assessed by the exam are:

- knowledge of the discipline
- ethical, legal and professional matters
- psychological assessment and measurement
- intervention strategies
- research and evaluation
- communication and interpersonal relationships
- working with people from diverse groups and
- practice across the life-span.

2. I am concerned about the proposed exemption of applicants for general registration who have completed the higher degree pathway and apply for general registration because I believe it will allow Organisational Psychology Masters Courses to diverge even further from other courses in psychology. I have supervised many students taking these courses and been dismayed at how narrow they are. The students I have supervised have had no understanding of suicide risk assessment which I believe is essential for all psychologists. They learn a great deal about assessment but almost nothing about intervention and little about broader ethical concerns and professional issues. Similarly I am not certain that students taking Masters courses in sports or coaching psychology can be assumed to have the broad psychological knowledge and skills expected of an early career psychologist. I believe the exemption can be only justified for clinical psychologists.

Alison Soutter
Registered Psychologist.