

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION PAPER ENTITLED

“GUIDELINES FOR THE NATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY EXAM”

I understand that there is a need to standardise the graduate entrant capabilities of students coming through typically unstandardized pathways such as 4+2 and 5+1. However I find issue with the inclusion of Post Graduate Masters students into the exam. This will cause issue down the road, as the content of the masters programs move from industry relevant topics towards a strict basic criteria mandated by the APS.

I find issue with the psychology registration exam primarily for a few points;

- As registration is for 'general' registration and lacking in any endorsements, it is strikingly focused on clinical psychology, and involves aspects that would not be encountered in the organisational psychology arena for example.
- If an exam is developed, the 2-year masters programs will lose their specialties (i.e., organisational, clinical, counselling, etc.) and instead teach solely for the exam
- I do not see the exam as upholding the integrity of psychology's diversity which as I see it, is a wonderful strength. Psychology is such a widely applied science that defining it into a 3.5 hour multiple choice exam is nigh on impossible, something which I don't think has been accomplished.

In sum, it is a greatly difficult task to encapsulate all that is common between the various areas of psychology without any one area being prioritised (clinical). This is intensely important, as the competencies for a sport psychologist, organisational psychologist or clinical psychologist are entirely different. As adhering to the Code of Ethics requires psychologists to act within their competencies, how are the differing competencies going to be adequately covered?

I would only endorse an exam if it furthered the psychological profess, however in this case I do not see this as true.