

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Consultation Paper 33: Review of the Guidelines for the National Psychology Exam

We write this in response to the Psychology Board of Australia's proposal to make the higher degree exemption for sitting the National Psychology Exam permanent; meaning that graduates with a board approved post-graduate qualification accredited at the fifth and sixth year of study will not be required to pass the exam before applying for general registration.

As current elected representatives of the University of Adelaide Master of Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Psychology combined programs (Clinical, Health and Organizational and Human Factors) we are in support of this proposal. As pointed out in the proposal, the new APAC guidelines released in January 2019, have been created in accordance with National Law, thus, APAC accredited courses such as ours are subject to these standards. To ensure these standards are upheld and students meet required competencies, throughout the duration of the course we are continuously assessed using multiple methods such as written assignments, role plays, video-recorded interviews, objective structured clinical examinations, case presentations, placement case reports, and our research project. Thus, if we can successfully fulfil the requirements of an APAC accredited program then we are surely competent to apply for general registration.

Additionally, it is also important to note the considerable costs that we incur in order to pursue a higher degree pathway to becoming a professional psychologist including the costs of provisional registration, fees for the course, and loss of income due to the demands of the course. Since, as students enrolled in an accredited program, we are continuously assessed, the further financial cost of sitting the National Psychology Exam, which only takes place a few times a year and only after completion of our course, is an undue extra burden and will result in a delay in us obtaining general registration thus affecting our employability.

Implementing this proposal would provide higher degree students, education providers and placement supervisors with certainty and clarity about the requirements for general registration.

Thank you in advance for your consultation. We look forward to the outcome.

Kind regards,

On behalf of the current Master of Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Psychology combined programs (Clinical, Health and Organizational and Human Factors) student cohort,

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Elected Student Representatives to the University of Adelaide School of Psychology Student and Staff Consultative Committee