

To whom it may concern,

Re: Consultation paper 25: Consultation on ending the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Examination

Firstly, I would like to thank you for publishing this consultation paper and giving me the opportunity to fully read and comment on it as it has recently become more relevant to me.

Specifically, I do not support the Board ending the exemption for provisional psychologists undertaking the higher degree pathway from sitting the National Psychology Exam. I am currently, and have been studying in an APAC accredited higher degree program, which I commenced prior to any discussion relating to the changes that have taken place. The higher education program I have undertaken, as stipulated by APAC, has required me to complete a considerable number of coursework assessments as well as the required research and placement components, which at the time of me selecting this course would have fulfilled my registration obligations. All three components of tertiary assessment have varied greatly in nature and have included vast range of topic content. They have all been “competency-based assessments of the integration of knowledge and skills in psychology” (p. 8), as the Board describes the National Psychology Examination.

Thus, it is of my opinion that the introduction of further assessment, specifically the proposed examination, would place further considerable financial burden upon students who have recently graduated from an already costly accredited program of education. I also find the examination of students and the cost unwarranted given the university programs must fulfill the APAC accreditation. Thus, it concerns me that the Board proposes that accreditation does not “assure competence to practice as a registered psychologist for individual graduates” (p. 8). I am unsure if I, or other students would have opted to pursue a higher degree pathway at great financial cost if I believed the Board had this opinion of the accredited higher education pathway.

In conclusion, I do not support the Board ending the exemption for students graduating from the higher education pathway. However, if the exclusion must come to an end then my preferred transition would be option b. Given I was a student who enrolled in a higher degree program prior to the publication of the guidelines, this would give me and other students with circumstances similar to mine the time to apply for general registration before 1 July 2017.

Again, thank you for this opportunity for me to respond and for the Board’s consideration of my response.

With Warm Regards,

Yours sincerely

Provisional Psychologist
Student, Master of Clinical Psychology Program.