

## Neuropsychology Student's Society

c/o Kirrily Rogers and Honor Coleman Psychological Sciences, The University of Melbourne Parkville VIC 3010 E-Mail: neuropsychology.students.society@gmail.com! Web: <https://sites.google.com/site/neuropsychologystudentsociety/>

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015

Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair  
Psychology Board of Australia  
[Psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:Psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au)

AHPRA Submission for Consultation Paper 25: Consultation on ending the higher degree exception from sitting the National Psychology Examination  
[Psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:Psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au).

Dear Professor Grenyer and the consultation board:

The Neuropsychology Student's Society [NSS] is an independent, not for profit, student-run society of postgraduate students undertaking APAC accredited Masters and Doctoral neuropsychology courses across Melbourne. The NSS would like to strongly endorse that the Psychology Registration Board continues to exempt postgraduate-trained psychologists from sitting the proposed National Psychology Examination upon generalist registration.

Postgraduate psychology students already meet the rigorous national standards for the education and training of psychologists set down by APAC and the Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008. The curriculum of the National Psychology Examination is commended for its thorough assessment of a broad range of professional capabilities. This curriculum, however, is already taught comprehensively to postgraduate psychology students in APAC accredited university courses. The eight capabilities covered by the National Psychology Examination are formally examined across a variety of formats –written exams, reports, practicum, essays, placement supervision- as part of these accredited courses to ensure that all postgraduate psychology students in Australia demonstrate a high level of understanding and aptitude across the domains outlined in the consultation paper. To re-assess us via the National Psychology Examination would therefore be highly redundant.

Exempting postgraduate psychology students from having to sit the National Psychology Examination would also relieve them of further financial and vocational costs. Not only would the National Psychology Examination place an additional and unnecessary financial burden on postgraduate students, it would also further delay entry into the profession as post-graduate students are not allowed to practice in the same independent manner as a provisional

psychologist undertaking an unaccredited two-year internship. As the exam would likely only be held at certain times of year, it would not only unfairly postpone career commencement; it would also have the potential to deny some postgraduate students of several months' income.

The NSS contends that the National Psychology Examination is an excellent initiative to ensure that the high standards set by APAC and AHPRA are systematically upheld across psychologists in Australia, including provisional psychologists undertaking an unaccredited 2-year internship, as well as psychologists trained overseas, those returning to work after lengthy periods of absence, and clinicians whose professional competence has been called into question. We strongly believe, however, that the National Psychology Examination is not appropriate for Masters and Doctoral students whose understanding of the curriculum has already been formally assessed and certified by APAC-accredited universities.

The NSS has scoped the attitudes of a range of postgraduate psychology students (including those from clinical, clinical neuropsychology and educational psychology cohorts) who also support the belief that the proposed exam is an unnecessary additional requirement on psychology students transitioning into clinical work, and that it undermines the registration process already required. We believe in AHPRA's ability to ensure that educators and supervisors are appropriately accredited and meet the national requirements. Furthermore, we do not believe that any additional measures to ensure competence should be at the cost of students.

If such an exam does come into effect, we advocate the following. Firstly, that there should be no cost for students to sit the exam. Required cost of such an exam should be made transparent, and completed on a not-for-profit basis. And secondly, we put forward the point that such a requirement should not retrospectively apply to students who began their course prior to this coming into effect (i.e. prior to 1st July 2016).

Thank-you for your consideration of our submission on this discussion paper.

Sincerely,

Neuropsychology Student's Society Executive Committee,  
on behalf of the Neuropsychology Student's Society



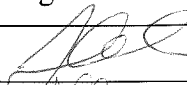
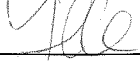
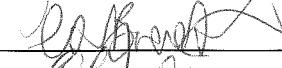

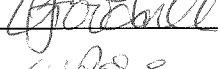

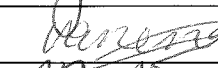
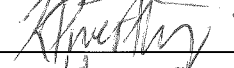
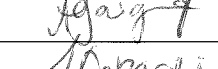





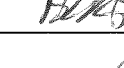



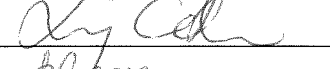
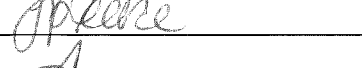

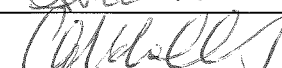







**NEUROPSYCHOLOGY**  
STUDENTS' SOCIETY



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

**gsa**  
graduate student  
association

We, the undersigned, agree with the comments and suggestions put forward by the Neuropsychology Students' Society as outlined above.

Name	Course	Signature
Honor Coleman	Neuropsychology	
Hannah Korrel	Neuropsychology	
Larshyn Broadshaw	Clinical Psychology	
Jessamae Pieters	Neuropsychology	
Joanne Goodall	Neuropsychology	
Whitney Rose	Neuropsychology	
Georgia Bolt	Neuropsychology	
Vanessa Rausa	Neuropsychology	
Katie Priestley	Neuropsychology	
Aimée Savage	Neuropsychology	
Tara De Paoli	Clinical Psychology	
Zac Teichner	Clinical Psychology	
Tahnee McBean	Clinical Psychology	
Nicholas Burden	Clinical Psychology	
Liam Harkin's	" "	
Martijn Seblan	Clin Psych.	
Ben Castine	Clinical Neuropsychology	
Emmanuel Pua	Neuropsych	
NICOLETTE INGRAM	NEUROPSYCHOLOGY	
CAROLYN CHADUNOW	Neuropsychology	
Kate Bray	Neuropsychology	
Lucy O'Hara	Neuropsychology	
Jessie Pearce	Clin Psych	
Nicola Heath	Clin Psych/PhD	
ALICE TSAI	CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	
Laura Nicholls	Clinical psychology	
EUSABETH MORLEY	CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	
Hui Chuan Teh	CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	
JESSICA O'CONNELL	CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	





The following would like to add their support to these comments, but were unable to sign in person;

Ms Laura Bird, MPysch (Clinical)/ PhD Candidate, The University of Melbourne

Ms Amy Loughman, MPsych (Clinical Neuro)/ PhD Candidate, The University of Melbourne

Mr Brendan Lloyd, MPsych (Clinical) Candidate, The University of Melbourne

Ms Vanya Rozanblat, MPsych (Clinical)/ PhD Candidate, The University of Melbourne

Mr Evan Jureidini, The University of Melbourne

Ms Meg Bonnell, The University of Melbourne