

I am writing in relation to the consultation paper regarding the proposal to retire the 4+2 internship pathway. I am currently an enrolled psychology university student at Murdoch University. I am against the retirement of the 4+2 pathway, as I chose to study psychology with a view of becoming a provisionally registered Psychologist after 4 years of study with an internship, for which I have contacts in the industry and securing an internship and supervision would not be an issue at all for me. When I enrolled I was advised one of the pathways to registration as a psychologist was to undertake the 4-year university study and then undertake 2 years of internship/supervision.

I think having different enrolment pathways to suit different individuals needs is a great asset and think retiring the 4+2 pathway would further limit ways of becoming a registered Psychologist. There are students who find it easy to source an internship; there are those who have a contact and sourcing an internship is not an issue at all; and there are those who need to work (as part of their internships) and may not be able to afford another year of study so the 4+2 pathway would be the only means to progress towards registration.

I would also like to draw attention to students in their first year or those looking to choose psychology as a career pathway that will be enrolling to university in 2018 or 2019. As such I believe any future student should be fore-warned about the years of study and pathway to supervision, before choosing that career or study. With that said, I would like to put forward the Board considers at least 7 years until they may consider retiring the 4+2 pathway so any future student is aware of the requirements and pathways to become a registered psychologist.

In summary, for these reasons, I am against the retirement of the 4+2 pathway. However, should there be a decision to retire it; with integrity and future students making educational decisions, I believe it should be retired in 7 years at the end of 2025 (or start of 2026). This is to allow for completion of 4 year study for those enrolled and 2 year internship/supervision.

Kind regards,
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