



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair, Psychology Board of Australia
psychologychair@ahpra.gov.au

AHPRA Submissions to Consultation paper 25: Consultation on ending the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Examination
psychconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

1st October 2015

Dear Professor Grenyer and the Psychology Board of Australia,

In response to **Consultation paper 25: Consultation on ending the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Examination**

1. ***From your perspective, are you in support of the Board ending the exemption for provisional psychologists undertaking the higher degree pathway (i.e. Masters/DPsych) from sitting the National Psychology Examination?*** Please provide a rationale for your support of option one or option two as described above.

As current students of the Master of Educational Psychology course at the University of Melbourne, we would like to submit that the current exemption granted to graduates of higher education degrees from sitting the National Psychology Examination be extended.

It is the belief of the undersigned that the exam proposed by AHPRA is an unnecessary additional requirement on psychology students graduating from higher degrees to transition into employment and undermines the registration process already required.

In response to points 4 and 5 of Consultation paper 25, it is our belief that provisionally registered psychologists who graduate from APAC-accredited and Psychology Board of Australia approved postgraduate programs have successfully completed practical and written assessment of core competencies to PBA-approved standards, therefore students should not have to undertake further examination of their professional competence to gain registration. To reassess using a National Exam would therefore be redundant.

We partially endorse point 6, that the National Psychology Examination is appropriate to ensure standards are met for general registration of overseas applicants and internship pathway applicants (4+2 and 5+1). In response to point 7, it is equitable for overseas applicants and internship pathway applicants to sit a National Examination, as competencies of provisional psychologists in higher education degree pathways are being measured against the set accredited criteria of the course.

In response to point 15, we advocate that the exemption for higher education degree students be continued indefinitely. The Board has stated in point 16 that it is “*the Board’s view that the internal examination and assessment processes in these accredited degree programs currently meet the Board’s standards for general registration.*” We agree with this statement.

In response to point 17, the undersigned highly endorse **Option one – Status quo**, which continues the existing higher degree exemption from sitting the national psychology exam for another three years.

- 2. If option two is supported, do you have a preference regarding transition requirements (option a, b or c) for registrants via the higher degree pathway?
Please provide a rationale for your support of your preferred option.***

As per point 53, and option two is taken, we believe **Option C** (higher degree students would be required to sit the National Psychology Examination if they enrol in any higher degree program after 1 July 2016), particularly as such a requirement would apply to students retrospectively.

- 3. Is there any content that needs to be changed or deleted in the revised draft guidelines (see Appendix A) in relation to the proposal to end the higher degree exemption?
(Please note that to show the text changes to the revised draft guidelines, the new text is highlighted in yellow and a red line has been put through the deleted text).***

In response to content changes, again, we advocate that the exam not be made compulsory for Higher Education graduates of accredited psychology courses. As such, necessary revisions to the draft guidelines should be made to show this.

- 4. Do you have any other comments on the proposal?***

If a National Examination were to come into effect, we advocate that there should be no cost for students to sit the exam. If a cost is deemed necessary, such costs should be made transparent and completed on a not-for-profit basis.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Master of Educational Psychology 2015 Cohort

The University of Melbourne

c/o Ms Sophie Stucley, Student, sstucley@student.unimelb.edu.au

We, the undersigned, agree with the comments and suggestions put forward above.



Ms Sophie Stucley

Ms Camillia Acosta

Ms Dominique Pang

Ms Celine Chia

Ms Stacey Jukes

Ms Megan Smalley

Ms Ariane Florent

Ms Tahmeena Ali

Ms Jessie Shadbolt

Ms Prishini Ratnayake

Ms Brenda Aguilar

Ms Jordana Aamalia

Ms Liying Su