

Michael Barnier

From: Tim Davern [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2024 10:17 AM
To: House of Assembly - GAB
Subject: RE: ADHD Inquiry - Invitation to appear - Friday 8 November 2024 at 10.15 am (AEDT)

Dear Michael,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear at the public hearing for the ADHD Inquiry on Friday.

As requested by the Committee during the public hearing, I am providing the below information to follow up a question on notice regarding the availability of post graduate psychology courses in Tasmania.

I have also provided additional information to clarify my response to a particular question I was asked about universities offering the "full suite" of psychology programs - as upon reviewing the broadcast, I may not have articulated myself accurately when responding to that particular question. To clarify:

- During the discussion, I referred to some psychologists having an Area of Practice Endorsement (AoPE). AoPEs represent advanced training at the Masters or Doctoral level, and expertise in one or more areas of psychological practice. There are nine AoPEs recognised by the Psychology Board of Australia, these are Clinical Neuropsychology, Clinical Psychology, Community Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Educational and Developmental Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology, Organisational Psychology, and Sport and Exercise Psychology.
- Due to the funding constraints facing universities, over the past five years many psychology courses across Australian universities have closed. This is particularly relevant to AoPE postgraduate courses, which were previously provided at 15 universities are no longer available. That is, apart from clinical psychology programs. Programs in the other eight AoPEs are now available at fewer than five universities across Australia. This greatly limits the number of future psychologists in these important areas of psychological practice.
- Further, the shortfall of funding leaves either universities or students covering a substantial amount of the costs associated with study and training. The current gap acts as a disincentive for universities to increase student numbers, as effectively there is a financial loss for every additional postgraduate psychology student that they accept. As such, there are few professional psychology training programs available and each is only able to accept a small number of students each year. This creates a very narrow training pipeline and with even fewer opportunities for students to undertake advanced training.
- The University of Tasmania offers the following post graduate psychology courses: 1. Master of Professional Psychology (5th year only), 2. Master of Clinical Psychology (5th & 6th year of study), and 3. Master of Psychology/Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical) (5th & 6th year study). That is, the University of Tasmania does not offer programs in the other eight AoPEs.

I hope this helps to clarify the situation and answers the question on notice.

Should any further information be required, please do not hesitate to get into contact.

Cheers

Tim Davern
Senior Policy Advisor
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