

Psychology Workforce Group Meeting Summary Notes

The Psychology Workforce Group (PWG) met on Tuesday 23 May 2017.

The following is a summary of the issues discussed:

Internships

There was a discussion of a range of issues related to internships and psychology training as noted below:

- A central funding model can be vulnerable to the political climate and a more distributed model might be less vulnerable
- In the UK funding for internships appears to have been supplanted by a loans' system
- Patchwork funding from e.g. MOE makes planning for internships difficult
- Problems can occur re space for psychology clinics in universities e.g. VUW
- Research degrees e.g. PhDs bring in lots of money for universities
- Appears to be little evidence of length of training equating with competence
- The trend towards psychology doctorates may not assist the number of Māori and Pasifika students coming through to registration because of costs
- Malcolm Stewart noted that 26% of registered psychologists in NZ have a doctorate

Psychology Workforce Taskforce Group (PWTG): debrief

The following comments were made:

- There was agreement that this group is moving in the right direction but that there needed to be funding for workforce research and for policy makers/managers to understand the training and competencies of psychologists to assist in employment practices. The problem of positions being fulfilled by professionals other than psychologists remains
- There is the need for a common statement on what psychologists do.
- It was agreed that indicators of progress on psychology workforce issues would be:
 - A predictable model of training psychologists
 - When the MOH awards contracts and is clear about the role and competencies of psychologists and purchases services that have psychologists delivering them
- Malcolm Stewart was thanked by PWG for his workforce research and work including the pipeline document for the PWTG.

Maori and Pasifika Workforce Issues

The following comments were made

- Congratulations to Pasifikology for their success in recruiting, supporting and retaining Pasifika psychologists
- There are multifaceted initiatives at VUW to support Māori psychology students
- There was a discussion of when support should start for Māori students
- There will be benefits in discussing these issues with NZAPT re students studying psychology in high school
- DHB Allied Health Leaders are connecting with secondary schools and looking at support for those from different ethnicities re studying psychology for an ethnically diverse workforce

Investing in the NZ workforce

- The NZPsS and the NZCCP made submissions re the MOH investment proposal and Quentin Abraham and Malcolm Stewart spoke to the submissions.

Next meeting: 22 August 2017 (hosted by the NZCCP)