

Communiqué

Medical Board of Australia meeting: 19 June 2013

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Review of the pathways to registration

All international medical graduates (IMGs) who apply for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice, or limited registration for area of need, must meet the requirements of one of three nationally consistent assessment pathways:

- Competent authority pathway
- Standard pathway
- Specialist pathway.

In their report, *Lost in the Labyrinth*, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing made recommendations about reducing red tape, duplication and administrative hurdles faced by IMGs. The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme has opened up opportunities to streamline and simplify the assessment and registration of IMGs.

The Board has reviewed the IMG assessment pathways and is proposing changes to the:

- Competent authority pathway
- Specialist pathway.

The Board consulted widely on the proposed changes. The consultation closed on 31 May 2013 and the Board received valuable feedback on these proposals from a wide range of stakeholders. The submissions indicate that there is broad support for changes that streamline processes and reduce duplication, yet still ensure that rigorous assessment processes are maintained.

The Board is now considering the feedback and will keep the profession and the community informed as it determines the next steps. Submissions will be published on the website progressively, unless confidentiality has been specifically requested.

National standards framework for intern training

As requested by the Board, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) is developing a national standards framework for intern training. The AMC and the Board have released a joint newsletter on progress toward the development of the framework. The newsletter is available on both the Board's [website](#) and the [AMC website](#).

Accredited programs of study

The AMC is responsible for accrediting individual programs of study after it is reasonably satisfied that:

1. the program of study meets an accreditation standard or
2. substantially meets an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time frame.

The AMC can also refuse to accredit a program of study.

The AMC must give the Board a report after it decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions).

After being given an accreditation report, the Board may approve, or refuse to approve, the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

Any changes to accredited programs of study must be approved by the Board.

The Board has approved the following name changes for accredited programs of study:

Griffith University

The Board approved the name change of the currently accredited medical program from Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) to the Doctor of Medicine (MD). The MBBS is in 'teach-out' phase, which means only currently enrolled students will complete this course. Approval of the programs continues until 31 December 2014.

University of New South Wales

The Board approved the name change of the currently accredited medical programs from:

- the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) six year program to the Bachelor of Medical Studies and Doctor of Medicine (BMedMD)
- the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) four year program to the three year Doctor of Medicine (MD).

Both MBBS programs are in teach out phase. Approval of the programs continues until 31 December 2013.

Flinders University

The Board approved the name change of the currently accredited medical program Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (BMBS) to the Doctor of Medicine (MD). The BMBS is in teach out phase. Approval of the programs continues until 31 December 2014.

Preparation for registration renewal

Medical practitioners with general and specialist registration are due to renew their registration by 30 September each year. AHPRA will forward registration renewal information to medical practitioners before this date.

In preparation for this, please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the [Your Account](#) tab on the top right of the AHPRA website. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

To check your contact details, go to the Your Account link above, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

Dr Stephen Bradshaw

Acting Chair, Medical Board of Australia

25 June 2013