



COAG Health Council

meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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Dear Dr Flynn

Approval of registration standards: limited registration as recommended by the Medical Board of Australia

Thank you for your letter of 26 May 2015, on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia (MBA), recommending approval of the proposed revised registration standards:

- Limited registration standard: post graduate training or supervised practice
- Limited registration standard: area of need
- Limited registration standard: teaching or research
- Limited registration standard: public interest.

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) decided on 27 August 2015 to approve the four revised limited registration standards as recommended by the MBA. We note the MBA's advice that the revised registration standards have had few changes to requirements, but have clearer wording and structure to make them easier to understand.

Ministers thanked the MBA for providing the new *Guidelines for Short-term training in a medical specialty for international medical graduates (IMGs) who are not qualified for general or specialist registration*. We note that the guidelines are closely related to the revised registration standard for postgraduate training or supervised practice and have been developed to alleviate some confusion about the pathway for registration that enables IMGs to be granted limited registration without having to sit the Australian Medical Council examination or to be in the specialist pathway.

Ministers agreed with the MBA's proposal that the approved limited registration standards, and the new guideline, commence as soon as practical after advance notice is given to stakeholders. We note that the MBA anticipates that commencement will be on Tuesday, 1 December 2015. The AHWMC trusts that communicating our approval today will help to support arrangements for implementation, so that practitioners and consumers are aware of the revisions before they

commence. If there are any unforeseen delays with implementation and commencement, we invite the MBA to advise Ministers as soon as practicable.

Finally, the AHWMC's approval of the four limited registration standards is to help ensure that medical practitioners seeking this type of registration have an improved understanding of the requirements set by the MBA. If additional explanatory information is needed, Ministers request that the MBA develop and publish the material promptly, to coincide with the commencement of the revised suite of limited registration standards.

The MBA's plans to review the approved limited registration standards from time to time as required, but generally at least every five years after commencement, is also welcomed by Ministers as good regulatory practice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Snelling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jack" being more prominent than the last name "Snelling".

The Hon Jack Snelling

Chair

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

7 September 2015

cc: Mr Martin Fletcher, CEO, AHPRA: martin.fletcher@ahpra.gov.au