



Standing Council on Health (meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council)

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Mr Neil Hicks
Chair
Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Mr Hicks

Thank you for your letter of 18 February 2014, recommending that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the AHWMC) approves the proposed revised supervised practice registration standard for medical radiation practitioners (the registration standard).

Ministers wish to thank the Board for its efforts in revising its original proposal in response to our concerns that there may be difficulties securing 1:1 supervision in rural and remote areas and in small private practices. We welcomed the Board's decision to undertake further targeted consultations with government and other stakeholders to ensure that all concerns were resolved prior to recommending the registration standard for approval. We note the proposal is now sufficiently flexible to accommodate a range of practice settings and supervision arrangements.

I am therefore pleased to advise that pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each State and Territory (the National Law), the AHWMC decided on 11 April 2014 to approve the registration standard.

Ministers note the proposed date for commencement of the approved registration standard is 1 November 2014, to allow graduates and other eligible practitioners to start a Board authorised supervised practice program immediately following the conclusion of the 2014 academic year. We also note the interim provisional registration guideline and supervision guidelines provided with your submission will commence simultaneously with the approved registration standard to ensure a smooth implementation of the new national arrangements.

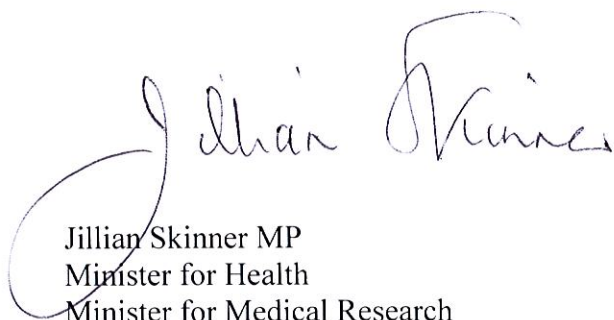
In approving the registration standard, Ministers accepted advice from the Board that national supervised practice arrangements will enable medical radiation practitioners to achieve the required clinical competence for safe independent practice. Ministers note that the Board has clarified that graduates of an approved program of study that fully meet the approved accreditation standards relevant to clinical education and student clinical placements are qualified to apply for general registration and are not required to undertake supervised practice.

We trust the approved registration standard will also support a safe return to practice for qualified practitioners and support those who have had conditions imposed on their registration requiring a period of supervised practice while ensuring the public is protected.

Ministers acknowledged the Board's commitment to reviewing the approved registration standard in three years from its date of commencement, and to further examine the use of the provisional registration category and its relevance as part of the scope of review. We were also pleased to note there will be a review of the *Capabilities for medical radiation practice* that prescribe the threshold capabilities required for safe independent practice and the Accreditation Committee appointed by the Board will review the *Accreditation standards for medical radiation practice programs of study* as these both influence the relevance of the use of the provisional registration category.

We trust that communicating the AHWMC's approval will enable the Board to publish the approved registration standard as soon as practicable ahead of its commencement later this year so that reasonable advanced notice of these requirements can be given to affected practitioners, particularly graduates who expect to complete their programs of study in 2014.

Yours sincerely



Jillian Skinner MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research
Chair, AHWMC

11 / 4 / 2014

cc: Director Board Services AHPRA, Chris.Robertson@ahpra.gov.au