

ATTACHMENT A

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS - FOI 3611

Document No.	Pages	Description	Decision on access ¹	Relevant FOI Act provisions
1	24	Letter from Medical Board of Australia to the Minister of Health	RI	N/A
2	17	Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council - Final Decisions and Actions Arising	RI	N/A

¹ RI = Release with irrelevant material removed.



1 March 2010

The Hon John Hill MP
Chair, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council
Minister for Health
GPO Box 2555
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

Proposals for Ministerial Council approval

I am pleased to submit the attached revised proposals from the Medical Board of Australia on mandatory registration standards, specialist registration and registration standards for limited registration for area of need and limited registration for postgraduate training and supervised practice

The proposals for registration standards and specialist registration are submitted in line with schedule 7, clause 30 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld) (the National Law), for approval of the Ministerial Council under sections 12 and 13 of the National Law.

The proposals submitted relate to:

- criminal history registration standard
- English language requirements registration standard
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard
- continuing professional development registration standard
- recency of practice registration standard
- specialist registration
- limited registration for area of need registration standard, and
- limited registration for postgraduate training and supervised practice registration standard.

The proposal on specialist registration that was previously submitted on 22 December 2009 has been amended following the receipt of feedback during consultation.

All the proposals have been subject to wide-ranging consultation as required in relation to registration standards by section 40 of the National Law, and comments have been received from the sector, governments and other stakeholders. The Board has found it very useful during the consultation process to receive advice agreed across jurisdictions from the heads of all health departments across Australia on their views on the matters under consideration.

I advise that the development of the proposals has been consistent with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's *Procedures for Development of Registration Standards* which the Agency has issued under section 20(1)(a) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008* (Qld).

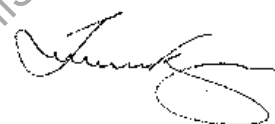
The Board also consulted on the adoption of the Australian Medical Council's publication titled *Code of Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia* as the Board's approved code of conduct under section 39 of the National Law. The consultation confirmed overwhelming support for the Code and it will therefore be adopted by the Board, after minor modifications are made to reflect the National Law.

With respect to the Board's list of proposed specialties and specialist titles submitted for Ministerial Council approval, the Board wishes to draw the Council's attention to a number of matters. The Board made substantial changes to the specialties and specialist titles as a result of the first round of consultation. It therefore decided to submit the specialties and specialist titles to further consultation. This was also an opportunity to consult on specialties that the Commonwealth Minister for Health, the Hon Nicola Roxon had recently recognised for inclusion in the Australian Medical Council list of recognised specialties that had not been on the original list.

The list of fields of specialty practice with associated specialist titles has been expanded to list separately the paediatric and adult specialty fields previously classified together under the specialty of 'physician'. While this leads to a longer list, and additional professional titles proposed for approval, it is designed to ensure that the list will accurately reflect the existing established paediatric specialties fields and therefore meet the needs of the health system and assist members of the public to understand in what field a specialist is qualified and practising.

The Board looks forward to receiving the approval of the Ministerial Council of the proposed registration standards under section 12 of the National Law and the proposed specialties and specialist titles under section 13 of the National Law.

Yours sincerely



Dr Joanna Flynn
Chair
Medical Board of Australia



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Proposed list of specialties, fields of specialty practice, and related specialist titles

Proposed specialty	Proposed fields of specialty practice	Proposed specialist titles
Addiction medicine	—	Specialist in addiction medicine
Anaesthesia	—	Specialist anaesthetist
Dermatology	—	Specialist dermatologist
Emergency medicine	—	Specialist emergency physician
General practice	—	Specialist general practitioner
Intensive care medicine	—	Specialist intensive care physician
Medical administration	—	Specialist medical administrator
Obstetrics and gynaecology		Specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist
	Gynaecological oncology	Specialist gynaecological oncologist
	Maternal–fetal medicine	Specialist in maternal–fetal medicine
	Obstetrics and gynaecological ultrasound	Specialist in obstetrics and gynaecological ultrasound
	Reproductive endocrinology and infertility	Specialist in reproductive endocrinology and infertility
	Urogynaecology	Specialist urogynaecologist
Occupational and environmental medicine	—	Specialist occupational and environmental physician
Ophthalmology		Specialist ophthalmologist
Paediatrics and child health		Specialist paediatrician
	Clinical genetics	Specialist paediatric clinical geneticist
	Community child health	Specialist in community child health
	General paediatrics	Specialist general paediatrician
	Neonatal and perinatal medicine	Specialist neonatologist
	Paediatric cardiology	Specialist paediatric cardiologist
	Paediatric clinical pharmacology	Specialist paediatric clinical pharmacologist
	Paediatric emergency medicine	Specialist paediatric emergency physician
	Paediatric endocrinology	Specialist paediatric endocrinologist
	Paediatric gastroenterology and hepatology	Specialist paediatric gastroenterologist and hepatologist
	Paediatric haematology	Specialist paediatric haematologist
	Paediatric immunology and allergy	Specialist paediatric immunologist and allergist
	Paediatric infectious diseases	Specialist paediatric infectious diseases physician
	Paediatric intensive care medicine	Specialist paediatric intensive care physician
Paediatric medical oncology	Specialist paediatric medical oncologist	

	Paediatric nephrology	Specialist paediatric nephrologist
	Paediatric neurology	Specialist paediatric neurologist
	Paediatric nuclear medicine	Specialist paediatric nuclear medicine physician
	Paediatric palliative medicine	Specialist paediatric palliative medicine physician
	Paediatric rehabilitation medicine	Specialist paediatric rehabilitation physician
	Paediatric respiratory and sleep medicine	Specialist paediatric respiratory and sleep medicine physician
	Paediatric rheumatology	Specialist paediatric rheumatologist
Pain medicine	—	Specialist pain medicine physician
Palliative medicine		Specialist palliative medicine physician
Pathology		Specialist pathologist
	General pathology	Specialist general pathologist
	Anatomical pathology (including cytopathology)	Specialist anatomical pathologist
	Chemical pathology	Specialist chemical pathologist
	Haematology	Specialist haematologist
	Immunology	Specialist immunologist
	Microbiology	Specialist microbiologist
	Forensic pathology	Specialist forensic pathologist
Physician		Specialist physician
	Cardiology	Specialist cardiologist
	Clinical genetics	Specialist clinical geneticist
	Clinical pharmacology	Specialist clinical pharmacologist
	Endocrinology	Specialist endocrinologist
	Gastroenterology and hepatology	Specialist gastroenterologist and hepatologist
	General medicine	Specialist general physician
	Geriatric medicine	Specialist geriatrician
	Haematology	Specialist haematologist
	Immunology and allergy	Specialist immunologist and allergist
	Infectious diseases	Specialist infectious diseases physician
	Medical oncology	Specialist medical oncologist
	Nephrology	Specialist nephrologist
	Neurology	Specialist neurologist
	Nuclear medicine	Specialist nuclear medicine physician
Respiratory and sleep medicine	Specialist respiratory and sleep medicine physician	
Rheumatology	Specialist rheumatologist	
Psychiatry	—	Specialist psychiatrist

Public health medicine	—	Specialist public health physician
Radiation oncology	—	Specialist radiation oncologist
Radiology	Diagnostic radiology	Specialist radiologist
	Diagnostic ultrasound	Specialist radiologist
	Nuclear medicine	Specialist in nuclear medicine
Rehabilitation medicine	—	Specialist rehabilitation physician
Sexual health medicine	—	Specialist sexual health physician
Sport and exercise medicine	—	Specialist sport and exercise physician
Surgery		Specialist surgeon
	Cardio-thoracic surgery	Specialist cardio-thoracic surgeon
	General surgery	Specialist general surgeon
	Neurosurgery	Specialist neurosurgeon
	Orthopaedic surgery	Specialist orthopaedic surgeon
	Otolaryngology – head and neck surgery	Specialist otolaryngologist - head and neck surgeon
	Oral and maxillofacial surgery	Specialist oral and maxillofacial surgeon
	Paediatric surgery	Specialist paediatric surgeon
	Plastic surgery	Specialist plastic surgeon
	Urology	Specialist urologist
Vascular surgery	Specialist vascular surgeon	

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Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

**Teleconference
Wednesday, 31 March 2010**

FINAL DECISIONS and ACTIONS ARISING

ATTENDANCE

NAME	JURISDICTION	PORTFOLIO
The Hon John Hill <i>(Chair)</i>	South Australia	For Minister for Health
Mr Trent Kear	Victoria	For Minister for Health
The Hon Nicola Roxon	Commonwealth	Minister for Health and Ageing
The Hon Carmel Tebbutt	New South Wales	Minister for Health
The Hon Paul Lucas	Queensland	Minister for Health
The Hon Dr Kim Hames	Western Australia	Minister for Health
Ms Angie Drake	Australian Capital Territory	For Minister for Health
The Hon Kon Vatskalis	Northern Territory	Minister for Health

Apologies: The Hon Daniel Andrews (Victoria)
The Hon Lara Giddings (Tasmania)

Item 1 Final Proposals from the National Boards on Registration Standards, Endorsements, and Specialist Registration.

Ministers:

1. Noted that on 18 March 2010, AHMAC Members agreed that the final proposals from the National Boards be submitted to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) for deliberation prior to the end of March 2010.
2. Noted that under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009) Ministerial Council is the only body able to approve the registration standards, endorsements, and specialist registration proposals from the National Boards, and that the Boards require these proposals to be in place before 1 July 2010 to implement the National Scheme.
3. Agreed and approved as follows:

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G. **Approved** the other registration standards set out in Attachment 1 to these Decisions.

4. Noted that Ministerial approval of the proposals would take effect on 1 July 2010 to coincide with the full operation of the National Scheme.
5. Noted the background to recommendations at Attachment 2 of the agenda paper.
6. Agreed that letters to each of the National Boards be prepared as a priority to communicate the resolutions of the Ministerial Council from its meeting today, to comply with the requirements of the National Law.

7. Agreed that the above letters be signed by the Chair of the Ministerial Council, or if the Chair is unavailable, signed by the Minister with special interest in NRAS matters, Minister Daniel Andrews for and on behalf of the Ministerial Council.
8. Agreed that the Communiqué to convey the above decisions be reviewed by officials and re-submitted to Minister Hill and Minister Roxon for clearance and subsequent release once the letters to the National Boards have been signed.

Other Business

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Communiqué

Se Attachment 2 to these Decisions

End

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REGISTRATION STANDARDS APPROVED BY AHWMC

These registration standards are **in addition** to those approved in the attached covering Decisions at Decision points 3C, 3E and 3F.

Note: 'Mandatory registration standards' where listed below includes (in all cases), registration standards for:

- Criminal history
- English language
- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Continuing Professional Development
- Recency of Practice.

National Board	Proposals recommended for approval	Legislative authority ¹
Chiropractic Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
Dental Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of Practice endorsement (conscious sedation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 15 – approval of area of practice for purposes of endorsement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 13 – approval of list of specialities and specialist titles for each speciality
Medical Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards • Standard for limited registration (area of need) • Standard for limited registration (postgraduate training or supervised practice) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 13 – approval of list of specialities and specialist titles for each speciality
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement for nurse practitioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 15 – approval of area of practice for purposes of endorsement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement for scheduled medicines (Registered Nurses) for Rural And Isolated Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 14 – approval of endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines • Approval is for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Class of practitioner:</u> registered nurse with additional approved qualifications <u>Type of endorsement:</u> Endorsed as

¹ In accordance with the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* (2009), as enacted by participating jurisdictions

National Board	Proposals recommended for approval	Legislative authority ¹
		<p>qualified to obtain, supply, and administer class of scheduled medicines <u>Class of scheduled medicines:</u> Schedule 2, 3, 4, & 8 medicines for nursing practice in a rural and isolated practice area</p>
Optometry Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
Osteopathy Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
Pharmacy Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards – subject to consideration of recommendation 3C re the PII standard • Examinations for general registration standard • Supervised practice standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
Physiotherapy Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
Podiatry Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 13 – approval of podiatric surgery as a specialty for the podiatry profession, and the related specialist title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement for scheduled medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 14 – approval of endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines • Approval is for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Class of practitioner:</u> registered podiatrist with additional approved qualification <u>Type of endorsement:</u> Endorsed as qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use class of scheduled medicines <u>Class of scheduled medicines:</u> Schedule 2, 3, 4, or 8 medicines for the treatment of podiatric conditions
Psychology Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards • General registration standard • Provisional registration standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 – approval of registration standards



Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

HEALTH MINISTERS ANNOUNCE APPROVAL OF NATIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION STANDARDS

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council is pleased to announce that it has approved national health practitioner registration standards recommended by the ten National Boards established under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, as follows:

- A suite of mandatory registration standards, submitted by National Boards, that will apply to all health practitioners registered under the national scheme. These registration standards cover criminal history screening, English language requirements, continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements. However, with regard to the Pharmacy Board of Australia's professional indemnity insurance standard, Ministers decided to request that the Pharmacy Board of Australia review the proposed standard to ensure that it appropriately accommodates all practice settings, including for those pharmacists employed solely in the public sector.
- A series of board-specific registration standards relating to limited registration for medical practitioners, examinations for general registration for pharmacists, supervised practice for pharmacists, general registration for psychologists, and provisional registration for psychologists.
- Specialist registration standards, including approved lists of specialties and protected specialist titles, for medical specialists, dental specialists, and podiatric surgeons.
- A series of board-specific areas of practice endorsements for suitably qualified dentists (conscious sedation), endorsement of nurse practitioners, and endorsement of seven areas of practice for suitably qualified psychologists. The seven approved areas of practice for psychology are clinical psychology, counselling psychology, forensic psychology, clinical neuropsychology, organisational psychology, sport and exercise psychology, and educational and developmental psychology. In approving these areas of practice, Ministers noted they are consistent with local and international categories for the psychology profession, such as branches of psychology in Western Australia and the recently recognised domains of practice in the United Kingdom.
- Standards for scheduled medicines endorsements for suitably qualified and registered optometrists, podiatrists, and rural and isolated practice registered nurses. In approving the endorsements, Ministers noted that it remains the responsibility of each State and Territory to decide how these endorsements may be incorporated into their respective drugs and poisons legislation, which gives practitioners legal authority to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply, or use scheduled medicines.

A complete list of approved proposals is attached to this communiqué.

Ministers decided to defer consideration of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia's proposal for specialist registration for the physiotherapy profession, pending the development of national criteria for assessing such proposals.

Ministers also decided to defer consideration of the Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice standard until their next scheduled meeting to allow for further consideration.

Ministers decided to defer consideration of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's proposed scheduled medicines endorsement for eligible registered midwives, pending the outcome of further priority discussions between the Board, and Commonwealth, State and Territory officials, to clarify the range of measures necessary to implement midwife prescribing by 1 November 2010.

The efforts of each National Board in developing the registration standards for their professions in time for the national scheme's full operation on 1 July 2010 was acknowledged by Ministers, who noted that the registration standards were submitted after the conclusion of wide-ranging consultation on draft proposals.

Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the many individuals and organisations who took the time to lodge submissions with the National Boards during their consultation period. Ministers noted that the Boards carefully considered the feedback received, which led to changes being made to improve the operation and clarity of the proposals.

In approving the registration standards, Ministers noted that the respective National Boards will monitor their application to health practitioners under the national scheme, and be mindful of the need to review the approved registration standards every 3 years or earlier, should that prove necessary in the interests of the provision of professional health services to all Australians.

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council approval of the registration standards for the professions is in accordance with the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*. The decision to approve the registration standards at this stage will assist the National Boards to implement the proposals in the lead-up to the national scheme's commencement. However, the approved registration standards will not come into force until the full commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2010.

In the meantime, the approved registration standards can be accessed on the individual websites of each National Board, or from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website - at www.ahpra.gov.au

Issued by:

The Hon John Hill
Minister for Health, South Australia
Chair, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

1 April 2010

Media Enquires: SA Health Media Unit - telephone: 08 8226 6488