



# Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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31 March 2010

Mr Stephen Marty  
Chair  
Pharmacy Board of Australia  
PO Box 16085  
Collins Street West  
MELBOURNE VIC 8007

Dear Mr Marty

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 2010 in relation to revised proposals submitted by the Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) on mandatory registration standards, supervised practice standard, and examinations for general registration standard.

Pursuant to section 12 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law), as enacted by participating jurisdictions, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) has decided to approve the following registration standards submitted by the Board – with the approval taking effect on 1 July 2010 to coincide with the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme:

- criminal history registration standard
- English language requirements registration standard
- continuing professional development registration standard
- recency of practice registration standard
- examinations for general registration standard
- supervised practice standard.

The requirement under the National Law that all registered health practitioners must not practise their profession unless appropriate professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements are in place, is a key public safety mechanism that is strongly supported by Ministers. The Ministerial Council gave careful consideration to the Board's proposed registration standard for PII. Ministers noted that it is a requirement for each National Board to develop a mandatory registration standard for PII that sets out the requirements as relevant to each profession – in this case, the pharmacy profession.

Ministers support a common approach being taken by National Boards to the mandatory registration standards. Therefore, the Ministerial Council requests that the Pharmacy Board review its proposed registration standard for PII to ensure that the requirements appropriately accommodate all practice settings for pharmacists, and that the standard is more closely aligned with the PII registration standards of the other National Boards.

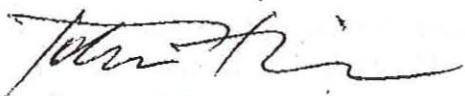
In particular, Ministers would welcome clarity that while pharmacists must hold appropriate PII cover for all aspects and areas of their practice, that it is not a mandatory requirement for this cover to *only* be in the form of individual cover – ie, in the pharmacist's own name. This approach would enable those pharmacists who practise exclusively in an employed position to meet the Board's requirements by providing details of their employer's PII policy and its compliance with the level of cover required by the Board. Should a pharmacist also practice outside of his/her employment arrangements, it is reasonable to expect that the pharmacist would hold additional coverage to ensure he/she is in compliance with the National Law.

We look forward to the Pharmacy Board's response to our request.

I would like to congratulate the Board on submitting its final proposals for the pharmacy profession in Australia to the Ministerial Council.

We trust that the Ministerial Council's decision to approve the registration standards as outlined in this letter will assist the Board to implement the proposals in the lead-up to the national scheme's full commencement on 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely



John Hill  
CHAIR, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH, South Australia