



# COAG Health Council

meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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Dear Mr Marty

## **Approval of revised registration standards as recommended by the Pharmacy Board of Australia**

Thank you for your letter of 15 June 2015, on behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA) recommending approval of the proposed revised registration standards:

- Registration standard: Examinations for eligibility for general registration
- Registration standard: Supervised practice arrangements.

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 revised registration standards as recommended by the PharmBA. In approving the revised registration standards, we noted the PharmBA's advice that the revisions were primarily editorial and to improve the clarity and workability of the current approved registration standards.

Ministers also noted that in response to stakeholder feedback about the proposed preceptor–intern supervision ratio in the revised registration standard for supervised practice arrangements, a provision has been included so that in exceptional circumstances, the PharmBA may approve other supervision ratios where there is evidence that required learning outcomes can be achieved and public safety is not compromised.

Supervision arrangements and any required ratios that ensure the public is protected while enabling health services to be provided by practitioners, remains a key area of interest for Ministers. We welcome the commitment of the PharmBA to develop a policy document to support fair and consistent decision-making by the board when considering applications about exceptional circumstances. We expect that this policy will be developed for commencement of the revised registration standard and for transparency, will be published on the board's website.

Finally, Ministers agreed with the PharmBA's proposal that the approved revised registration standards commence up to 6 months after our approval (around February 2016) and following

advance notice being given to health practitioners and other key stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition. If there are any unforeseen delays with implementation or commencement, we invite the PharmBA to advise Ministers as soon as practicable.

The PharmBA's plans to regularly review approved registration standards at least every five years after commencement to ensure clarity, workability and relevance is also welcomed by Ministers as good regulatory practice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Snelling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

The Hon Jack Snelling

Chair

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

7 September 2015

cc: Mr Martin Fletcher, CEO, AHPRA: [martin.fletcher@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:martin.fletcher@ahpra.gov.au)