



# COAG Health Council

meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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Dear Dr Lockwood

**Approval of revised registration standard: endorsement for conscious sedation, as recommended by the Dental Board of Australia**

Thank you for your letter of 28 May 2015, on behalf of the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) recommending approval of the proposed revised *Registration standard for endorsement for conscious sedation* (the revised registration standard).

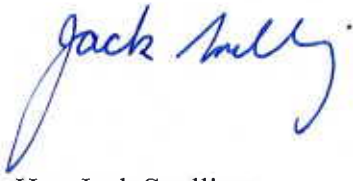
I am pleased to advise that pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) decided on 27 August 2015 to approve the revised registration standard as recommended by the DBA. In approving the revised registration standard, Ministers noted the DBA's advice that there were no changes to the requirements for initial application or renewal of endorsement for dentists, and that the proposed revisions were to improve the clarity and workability of the current approved registration standard.

Ministers agreed with the DBA's proposal that the approved revised registration standard commence once published on the Board's website, as soon as practical after receipt of this approval. We also note that as the revised registration standard includes relevant content from the current Board-approved *Guidelines for conscious sedation*, these guidelines will be retired.

Finally, the AHWMC welcomes the DBA's commitment to develop communication materials that will address any continuing confusion about when the revised registration standard applies. We understand this will include communication and education within the profession and other stakeholders on the difference between conscious sedation and other uses of scheduled medicines in dental practice including relative analgesia.

The DBA's plans to review the approved revised registration standard at least every five years after commencement is also welcomed by Ministers as good regulatory practice.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Jack Snelling

Chair

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

7 September 2015

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