



COAG Health Council

(Meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council)

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Dear National Board Chairs

Approval of the revised common *Criminal history registration standard*, as submitted and recommended by all National Boards

Thank you for your letter of 31 November 2014, advising that the 14 National Boards had reviewed the current approved common Criminal history registration standard as part of a planned review of common and core registrations standards that have mostly been in effect since the start of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in 2010.

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 to approve the proposed revised registration standard on 17 March 2015, as recommended by each of the 14 National Boards.

Ministers also agreed with the National Boards' proposal that the revised common registration standard commence up to 6 months after the AHWMC approval to support a smooth transition.

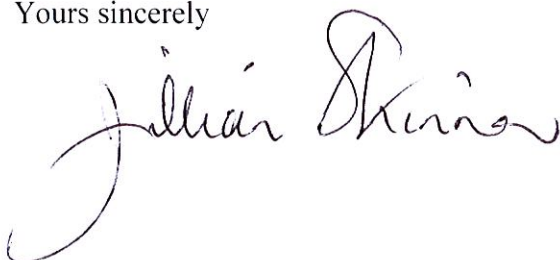
In making this approval, Ministers noted advice from the National Boards that public consultation indicated that the current registration standard was working and therefore revisions that were mainly editorial in nature were needed to improve the standard's clarity into the future.

Health Ministers commend the approach taken by the National Boards to jointly review common and core registration standards to ensure there is as much consistency as practicable for registration requirements that apply to all professions regulated under the National Scheme, while ensuring that the protection of the public remains paramount.

The National Boards' commitment to reviewing the revised registration standard in at least five years after commencement is also welcomed by Ministers as good regulatory practice.

We trust that communicating the AHWMC's approval will enable the National Boards to publish the approved revised registration standard in advance of it taking effect, so that practitioners and consumers are aware of the minor changes that will take effect later this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jillian Skinner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

Chair, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

30 April 2015