



# COAG Health Council

meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

Post Office Box 344  
RUNDLE MALL SA 5000  
Telephone: 08 8226 6191  
Facsimile: 08 8226 7244  
Email: [chcsecretariat@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:chcsecretariat@health.sa.gov.au)

Mr Wayne Minter AM, Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia  
Dr John Lockwood AM, Chair, Dental Board of Australia  
Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair, Medical Board of Australia  
Mr Neil Hicks, Chair, Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia  
Dr Lynette Cusack, Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
Mr Colin Waldron, Chair, Optometry Board of Australia  
Dr Nikole Grbin, Chair, Osteopathy Board of Australia  
Mr Steve Marty, Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia  
Mr Paul Shinkfield, Chair, Physiotherapy Board of Australia  
Ms Cathy Loughry, Chair, Podiatry Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Email: [Martin.Fletcher@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:Martin.Fletcher@ahpra.gov.au)

Dear National Board Chairs

## **Approval of revised professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standards as recommended by 10 National Boards**

Thank you for your letter of 15 June 2015, advising that 10 National Boards have reviewed the current approved professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements registration standards 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 National Law), the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) decided on 27 August 2015, to approve the revised PII arrangements registration standards as submitted and recommended by each of the 10 National Boards.

Health Ministers welcome the approach taken by the ten National Boards to jointly review the PII arrangements registration standards to ensure there is as much consistency as practicable for registration requirements that apply to all professions regulated under the National Scheme. The National Boards' commitment to reviewing the revised registration standard at least every five years after commencement is also welcomed by Ministers as good regulatory practice.

Ministers commended the National Boards for achieving a high level of consistency across the

revised PII arrangements registration standards, and using a standard template for setting requirements, definitions, and evidence provisions. We note the reasons given by the Medical, Nursing and Midwifery, and Pharmacy Boards, for the minor variances and profession-specific approaches to some requirements in their revised standards.

Ministers also agreed with the National Boards' proposal that the revised registration standards commence as soon as practicable. We understand that this will be approximately six months after approval (around February 2016), and after advance notice of the revisions is given to health practitioners and other stakeholders, to ensure there is sufficient time to prepare for the changes. We note advice that implementation will require some operational changes, including changes to IT infrastructure, and as such the timing needs to take account of the annual registration renewal cycles for each of the 10 professions, which may require adjustments to the commencement date of the revised standard for different cohorts of registrants.

Ministers thanked the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia for providing the Board's revised PII arrangements guidelines which will commence at the same time as the approved revised registration standard. We note that AHPRA is considering additional supporting information for implementation, which may include a PII guide to registrants to respond to frequently asked questions.

Ministers are confident that implementation of the revised registration standards will be successful, and we invite the National Boards and AHPRA to keep us informed as work progresses. If any unforeseen challenges arise, please advise Ministers as soon as possible.

We trust that communicating the AHWMC's approval today will enable the National Boards to manage a smooth transition and implement the approved revised PII arrangements registration standards for commencement next year.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Jack Snelling

Chair

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

7 September 2015