



## Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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November 2009

Mr Peter Allen,  
Chair, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency Management Committee

Dr Phillip Donato, Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia  
Dr John Lockwood, Chair, Dental Board of Australia  
Dr Joanna Flynn, Chair, Medical Board of Australia  
Ms Anne Copeland, Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
Mr Colin Waldron, Chair, Optometry Board of Australia  
Mr Robert Fendall, Chair, Osteopathy Board of Australia  
Mr Stephen Marty, Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia  
Mr Glenn Ruscoe, Chair, Physiotherapy Board of Australia  
Mr Jason Warnock, Chair, Podiatry Board of Australia  
Associate Professor Brin Grenyer, Chair Psychology Board of Australia

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Dear Colleagues

At its meeting on 13 November 2009 in Adelaide, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council resolved to give a Ministerial Council policy direction to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the ten national boards. This policy direction is given under Section 7 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

The purpose of the policy direction is to clarify for the Agency and the national boards the financial arrangements to apply to registered health practitioners whose principal place of practice is in the State of New South Wales.

The policy direction is as follows:

1. The Council supports the concept of setting single national fees for registration and renewal across Australia;
2. The assessment of the national registration and renewal fees to be paid by registrants will separately identify;
  - a. the registration and accreditation elements, and
  - b. the complaints element;

3. NSW registrants will not be required to contribute to the costs of running the national complaints scheme and equally, non-NSW registrants will not be required to contribute to the costs of running the NSW complaints scheme or subsidise the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission;
4. The Agency will return any differential between such a national registration and/or renewal fee and the total amount assessed as payable by NSW registrants under this direction to NSW registrants as a fee rebate (or the variation addressed through such other mechanism as may be agreed by the National Agency and NSW);
5. Administrative arrangements for the rebate will be cost neutral;
6. For registrants with a primary practice address in NSW ("NSW registrants"), the complaints element of registration/renewal fees will be assessed by NSW having regard to the costs of running the NSW co-regulatory complaints scheme, rather than the national complaints scheme; and
7. The assessment of costs for running the NSW complaints scheme will be made by NSW in accordance with the criteria established under NSW law.

The Ministerial Council is very pleased to note the progress made by the Agency and the national boards in implementation of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions. The Council looks forward to working with the Agency and Boards into the future and to successful commencement of the new scheme on 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely



John Hill  
Chair  
Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

17.11.09