



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL
ASSOCIATION INC.**

14-16 Chandos Street
St Leonards NSW 2034

All Correspondence to:
PO Box 520 St Leonards NSW 1590

30th October, 2013

The Secretary
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
C/- criminalhistoryconsult@ahpra.gov.au

Re: Consultation on international criminal history checking

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on your Public consultation paper addressing international criminal history checking.

The Australian Dental Association makes the following comments/observations:

1. The Association notes the current approach on checking criminal histories as required pursuant to Section 79 and specifically where it states that the approach is to seek an Australian criminal history through CrimTrac. The Association supports this but supports it subject to the agency's evaluation as to whether it itself considers this to be an effective process. If the experience has been that applicants have declared a criminal history and the agency is satisfied with the level of scrutiny provided then the Association is happy for that approach to continue.
2. In the case where International criminal history checks are to be obtained in respect of applicants that have lived outside Australia, you have sought opinion as to which countries that check ought to be addressed to having regard to the period of time in which the applicant has resided in that country. In this respect the Association believes that a period of 6 months should be the specified period adopted. To adopt a shorter period would seem onerous as it would likely encompass applicants who may have had a prolonged overseas holiday.
3. In relation to the requirement that applicants declare their entire criminal history the paper refers to the fact that every conviction of a person for an offence will be included as will every plea of guilty or finding of guilt. This is acceptable to the Association. What the Association continues to find unacceptable (which it identified in earlier submissions) is the need for a declaration of every charge made against the person for an offence. It feels this is unjust as the requirement to declare every charge made is not indicative of any offence having being committed and should thus be irrelevant. It therefore presses for deletion of the requirement to list charges where there has been no adverse finding.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Alexander', written in a cursive style.

Dr Karin Alexander
Federal President