



Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
Member for Woodridge

MI209216



Level 19  
147-163 Charlotte Street Brisbane 4000  
GPO Box 48 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100  
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6225  
Email [health@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:health@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au)

Mr Michael Gorton AM  
Chair  
Agency Management Committee  
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency  
GPO Box 9958  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

18 MAY 2016

Dear Mr Gorton *Michael,*

Thank you for your letter dated 17 February 2016, in relation to the consultation on fees to be paid to the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) for 2015-2016. These fees relate to OHO's consideration of matters relating to the health, conduct or performance of registered practitioners providing a health service in Queensland for 2015-2016.

I appreciate your submission of a joint response in relation to this consultation, initiated in accordance with section 26A of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (Queensland)* (the National Law).

I wish to formally notify you of my determination of fees to be paid from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to OHO for 2015-2016. I also wish to outline my requirement for an independent analysis of funding methodologies to apply to all determinations.

Please be advised that I am writing in similar terms to Mr Leon Atkinson-MacEwen, Health Ombudsman.

**Decision for 2015-2016**

In accordance with the National Law, the quantum of Queensland registrant fees to be paid by AHPRA to OHO each financial year must be developed in consultation with AHPRA, its National Health Practitioner Boards and the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

The proposed decision, issued for consultation on 14 December 2015, was noted and/or approved by all members of the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

However, given advice provided in AHPRA's submission, including a detailed explanation of an alternative costing methodology, and without prejudice to subsequent funding arrangements, I have decided that AHPRA will transfer \$4,202,498 to the OHO for 2015-2016. A summary of expected funding from the National Health Practitioner Boards is enclosed.

In accordance with the National Law, I would therefore be grateful if you could ensure respective National Health Practitioner Boards are notified of the required contributions, as confirmed in the enclosed attachment, and that you make this decision publicly available as soon as practical.

Funding is to be transferred to OHO in the form of a single payment by no later than one month of the date of this letter. I would appreciate confirmation of this transfer once made.

In setting this decision, I remain committed to the concept of a single national fee for registration and renewal across Australia and to the principle that registrants should not contribute to the costs of running schemes in other jurisdictions. I also continue to uphold the expectation that professions should not cross-subsidise each other.

### **Independent analysis of funding methodology**

You will be aware of my expectation that future consultations will be completed prior to the commencement of the financial year to which they relate. However, the variety and complexity of complaints and different methodologies used by OHO and AHPRA mean there is no simple and agreed way of costing individual notifications.

To inform arrangements for 2016-2017, the Department of Health will commission an independent financial analysis to confirm the most appropriate methodology upon which to base future decisions. This independent analysis will also be retrospectively applied to the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 determinations.

This process will involve consultation with OHO, AHPRA and the Department of Health to establish the factors underpinning the differences between respective methodologies. The analysis will be prepared for my consideration early in the 2016-2017 financial year.

I seek your commitment confirming AHPRA's participation in the independent analysis. I would also be grateful if you could ensure relevant AHPRA officials are made available to participate in this process and provide any information or other supporting data as requested.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for [REDACTED] Acting Director, Office of Health Statutory Agencies, Department of Health, on telephone [REDACTED] to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**CAMERON DICK MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**

**Apportionment of complaints handling fees across the  
National Health Practitioner Boards**

<b>National Health Practitioner Board</b>	<b>Fees</b>
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice</b>	\$0
<b>Chinese medicine</b>	\$37,195
<b>Chiropractic</b>	\$29,877
<b>Dental</b>	\$253,199
<b>Medical</b>	\$2,031,925
<b>Medical radiation practice</b>	\$26,109
<b>Nursing and Midwifery</b>	\$1,299,777
<b>Occupational therapy</b>	\$13,114
<b>Optometry</b>	\$16,374
<b>Osteopathy</b>	\$6,939
<b>Pharmacy</b>	\$243,867
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	\$47,373
<b>Podiatry</b>	\$9,987
<b>Psychology</b>	\$186,762
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,202,498</b>