

Australian Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons

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Mr Richard Willis
Senior Secretary, Council Committee
Department of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

12 February 2013

Dear Mr Willis

Re: Inquiry into the Performance of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

The Australian Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons (ASOS) maintains that the public interest is best served when the roles of the medical profession and the regulator are clearly and separately defined. The role of an independent medical profession should always be to set standards which will deliver quality (safe and efficacious) medical treatment to patients. The role of the regulator should always be to endorse those standards which have delivered quality medical care to the Australian public, through practical regulation. ASOS maintains that procedural competencies must always be grounded in a comprehensive medical education in whole body systems.

ASOS therefore supports:

1. A return of medical registration and disciplinary matters to State and Territory Medical Boards and hence the removal of these processes from the control of the AHPRA.
2. A dedicated national register for Australian Medical Practitioners.
3. The ability for a medical practitioner to simultaneously register in all states providing he/she meets the requirements for registration.
4. State Medical Boards with broad medical representation including significant representation from doctors in active practice.
5. The recognition of the contribution of Senior Active Doctors with appropriate categories of registration.
6. The ability of State and Territory Governments to amend the National Law without reference to other state jurisdictions. This is a return oversight and responsibility to State Health Ministers.
7. Minimal appropriate registration fees and charges with incremental increases pegged to indices which are applied to the MBS.
8. Concentration by State and Territory Medical Boards on core issues of registration and disciplinary matters and the non-duplication of functions and roles which are the core business for established Medical Colleges e.g. certification, ethical guidelines, CPD audit.
9. Protection of the titles of 'doctor', 'surgeon', 'clinician' in the healthcare setting for use by medical and dental practitioners in accordance with Australian custom and practice.
10. The standards of clinical practice which insist that the cutting of bone and tendon only be undertaken by those with a comprehensive medical education and achievement of a medical surgical fellowship.
11. The retention of an independent Australian Medical Council.
12. The creation of a new National Medical Board being the Chairman of each of the State and Territory Medical Boards i.e. the re-constitution of the Joint Medical Board Advisory Committee (JMBAC).

Yours faithfully



Dr Gary Speck
National Chairman
Australian Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons