Australian Senior Active Doctors Association Inc

PO Box 12
Arncliffe NSW 2205

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

26 February 2013

Dear Mr Willis

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

The Australian Senior Active Doctors Association (ASADA) believes that senior doctors in Victoria should be given the opportunity to register with AHPRA in the category, Limited Registration Public Interest - Occasional Practice (LRPIOP).

Currently this category of registration for medical practitioners is due to be abolished. We believe the category is an excellent way of maintaining the involvement of senior doctors in the profession within the regulations that protect the public interest.

Currently senior doctors have no step down category of registration after they leave the general or specialist register.

ASADA notes that all political parties support and encourage senior Australians to continue to participate in their occupation or profession for as long as possible. The registration category of LRPIOP puts this policy into action within the appropriate safeguards.

With record numbers of junior doctors graduating, it is important that the profession and community maintain experienced doctors who can act as mentors and teachers and continue to provide basic support to the elderly in an ageing population with pressure on healthcare resources. ASADA is also mindful that in the event of a national emergency, all available medical expertise should be utilised without the need to defer to bureaucratic mechanisms which delay response.

We are proud of the record of those doctors who have registered in this category. ASADA has asked AHPRA to retain the category and requests support from the Victorian Parliament to that effect.

Yours faithfully

(original scanned copy duly signed)

Dr Frank Johnson
President
Australian Senior Active Doctors Association