



Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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31 March 2010

Dr John Lockwood
Chair
Dental Board of Australia
PO Box 16085
Collins Street West
MELBOURNE VIC 8007

Dear Dr Lockwood

Thank you for your letter of 1 March 2010 in relation to the revised proposals submitted by the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) on mandatory registration standards, endorsements, and specialist registration.

Pursuant to section 12 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law), as enacted by participating jurisdictions, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) has decided to approve the following registration standards submitted by the Board – with the approval taking effect on 1 July 2010 to coincide with the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme:

- criminal history registration standard
- English language requirements registration standard
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard
- continuing professional development registration standard
- recency of practice registration standard.

Pursuant to section 13 of the National Law, the Ministerial Council has also decided to approve the list of specialties and specialist titles as specified in Part 3.1 of the Board's specialist registration proposal. This approval takes effect on 1 July 2010.

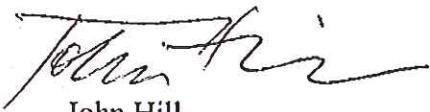
Further, pursuant to section 15 of the National Law, the Ministerial Council has decided to approve the Board's proposal for an area of practice endorsement for conscious sedation, to take effect on 1 July 2010. This endorsement is to apply to registered dentists whose registration has been endorsed by the Board in accordance with section 98 of the National Law.

I now turn to the Board's proposal for a scope of practice registration standard that would apply to all dental registrants, including dental therapists and dental hygienists. At our meeting of 31 March 2010, the Ministerial Council agreed to further consider the standard at our meeting scheduled for 22 April 2010.

I would like to congratulate the Board on submitting its final proposals for the dental profession in Australia to the Ministerial Council.

We trust that the Ministerial Council's decision to approve the registration standards and related proposals as outlined in this letter will assist the Board to implement the proposals in the lead-up to the national scheme's full commencement on 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely



John Hill
CHAIR, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council
MINISTER FOR HEALTH, South Australia