



COAG Health Council

meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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Professor Brin Grenyer
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Dear Professor Grenyer

Approval of revised general registration standard for psychologists, as recommended by the Psychology Board of Australia

Thank you for your letter of 31 August 2015, recommending approval of the proposed revised *general registration standard for psychologists* (the revised registration standard) as submitted by the Psychology Board of Australia (the PsyBA).

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to Section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) decided on 6 November 2015, to approve the revised registration standard as recommended by the PsyBA.

In agreeing to approve the revised registration standard, Ministers noted the PsyBA's advice that no additional requirements or hurdles are being introduced for psychologists to meet to seek or be granted general registration. Ministers further note that minor revisions have been made to ensure that overall, the requirements are more specific, the language is clearer, and the structure is more logical to make it easier for psychology applicants to understand and comply with.

Ministers also agreed with the PsyBA's proposal that the approved registration standard commence as soon as practicable, up to 6 months after approval, to ensure a smooth transition to the revised approved standard. We also note that psychologists and other stakeholders will be given advance notice, so they can become familiar with the revised standard before it starts.

Regular review of approved registration standards is welcomed by Health Ministers as good regulatory practice. Ministers acknowledged the PsyBA's commitment to review the approved general registration standard at the completion of the board's current review of the provisional registration standard and the 4+2 internship program guidelines, to ensure that any necessary changes will flow through to the standard in a timely way. Please advise Ministers if any

unforeseen matters arise during implementation of the approved registration standard, including if there are any delays to its commencement as proposed.

Finally, Ministers thank the PsyBA for also providing the new diagram that illustrates the training pathways to general registration as a psychologist that will be published along with other explanatory material to support implementation of the approved registration standard.

We trust that the AHWMC's approval of this revised registration standard will help support a smooth implementation in the coming months.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Jack Snelling

Chair

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

6 November 2015

cc: Mr Martin Fletcher, CEO, AHPRA: martin.fletcher@ahpra.gov.au