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Dr Joanna Flynn
Chair
Medical Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
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Dear Dr Flynn

Re: AMA submission to the Medical Board of Australia – Review of accreditation arrangements for the medical profession

The AMA has considered the consultation paper and the submission of the Australian Medical Council (AMC) to the Medical Board of Australia (Board) to continue the Accreditation Functions for Medicine under the National Law.

The AMA is a strong supporter of the AMC and agrees with the Board's preliminary view that the current arrangements for the accreditation function are satisfactory.

We note the AMC's statement (p.20) that it is under funded for its core role of accreditation as a result of the Commonwealth's withdrawal of funding with the establishment of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. We are very concerned that in the establishment of the National Scheme there was no arrangement made to continue the Commonwealth contribution to funding. We maintain that the Commonwealth funding for accreditation should have been continued rather than shifting the cost to medical practitioners through their registration fees.

I would like to have further discussion with you about the financial situation of the AMC and the likely impact on medical practitioners' registration fees.

Yours sincerely

Steve Hambleton
President

11 October 2012