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21 April 2011

Dr Joanna Flynn Chair Medical Board of Australia

Via email: medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr Flynn

Re: Sexual boundaries: A guide for doctors and patients

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners ("the College") thanks the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) for the opportunity to comment on the draft guidelines regarding sexual boundaries for medical practitioners. The College has reviewed the draft guideline and details its response in this letter.

The RACGP notes that these draft guidelines support the code of conduct "Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia" which was adopted by the MBA and provides further specific guidance for doctors regarding sexual boundaries.

The College r ecognises the imp ortance of a ppropriate doc tor-patient bound aries, and s upports the implementation of these guidelines.

The importance of appropriate patient-General Practitioner boundaries is reinforced in the RACGP's Curriculum for Australian General Practice which covers professional and ethical boundaries throughout all stages of a doctor's medical career including medical, prevocational and vocational training and continuing professional development.

If yo u h ave any q uestions o r c omments re garding t his letter, p lease c ontact mys elf o r Mr Roald Versteeg, Manager – Policy & Practice Support.

Kind Regards

Dr Claire Jackson President

Carie Jackson

RACGP