

LIA04/13

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Dear Sir/Madam

Registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training

Thank you for asking for the Medical Council of New Zealand to comment on your draft *Registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training*. The Council's Education Committee considered this paper at its meeting on 31 August 2011.

The Medical Council of New Zealand

The Council is a statutory body instituted with the primary purpose to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public. It has the following key functions:

- Registering doctors
- Setting standards and guidelines
- Recertifying and promoting lifelong learning for doctors
- Reviewing practising doctors if there is a concern about performance, professional conduct or health.

Comment

The Council's primary concern in any changes to the intern year is on the impact these changes will have on the recognition of Australian and New Zealand qualifications in both countries. As you are aware, the Australian and New Zealand Medical Councils have a long history of mutual cooperation which has resulted in Australian and New Zealand doctors having very similar educational experiences.

The Council is concerned that this reciprocity must be maintained, and that Australian and New Zealand educational experiences must remain broadly similar. Any major changes made to intern training in Australia may impact on our recognition of Australian qualifications. We are also concerned about what these changes may mean to recognition of New Zealand training and qualifications in Australia. This is particularly important given our own review of prevocational training which is currently in progress¹.

¹ Refer to http://www.mcnz.org.nz/portals/0/news/Prevocational_training_discussion_paper.pdf

While the Council is satisfied that the Board's current proposals will not have a major impact on mutual recognition, there are a number of areas of potential difference that should be highlighted:

- New Zealand currently has no mandatory requirement for intern experience in emergency medical care.
- There is potential for the length of intern training runs in Australia to be shortened, while in New Zealand we are looking at extending runs to provide a richer training experience.

We look forward to ongoing dialogue about intern training and the mutual recognition of qualifications. Thank you again for providing the Council with an opportunity to comment. I hope you find these comments useful.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Pigou
Chief Executive