



**The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of
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14 May 2012

Dr Joanna Flynn AM
Chair
Medical Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

By Email: medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr Flynn

**Re: Draft Registration Standard: Endorsement of Registration for
Acupuncture for Registered Medical Practitioners**

I write on behalf of the Royal Australian and New Zealand RANZCOG of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) in regard to the consultation on a registration standard for endorsement for acupuncture.

Through its Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Subspecialty Committee, the RANZCOG makes the observation that the effect of acupuncture has been well researched and, indeed, much better represented in clinical trials of effectiveness (now numbering well into double figures, with numerous meta-analyses of these trials) than any other intervention that might be considered a complementary medicine approach. It is noted that numerous problems have been highlighted with the methodology of these trials and their results are heterogeneous. Although the summation of this evidence is that acupuncture pre-IVF is at the borderline of statistical significance in terms of improving the chance of success of IVF, there is enough uncertainty around this for an Australasian multi-centre trial examining this very clinical question to have been designed, funded by NH&MRC and now to be underway, with numerous recruiting centres. The current consensus amongst fertility clinicians is that there is insufficient convincing evidence of effectiveness to support the use of acupuncture to improve success rates as a routine adjunct to IVF or in other fertility treatment settings.

The above said, the RANZCOG is confident that the draft standard addresses the issues related to acupuncture as a treatment modality in medical practice.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Peter White

Chief Executive Officer

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