

26 June 2014

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: Consultation – Limited registration standards and draft guideline on short term training in a medical specialty pathway

Thank you for the opportunity for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) to comment on the revised limited registration standards and draft guideline on short term training in a medical specialty pathway.

The RANZCP has reviewed the draft revised standards and notes that the proposed changes address issues raised by stakeholders about the current standards. The changes proposed in the draft revised registration standards are minimal and they have been reworded to be simpler and clearer and clarify current requirements for limited registration. The RANZCP anticipates that the proposed changes will have little impact on the College.

The RANZCP has also reviewed the draft guideline on short-term training in a medical specialty for international medical graduates who are not qualified for general or specialist registration and submits the following responses to the questions posed in Attachment F:

Question 1 - Change of pathway name

The RANZCP supports the change in name from 'specialist pathway – short term training' to the 'short term training in a medical speciality'.

Question 2 - Eligibility for the short-term training in a medical specialty pathway

The RANZCP believes that the eligibility criteria stated are appropriate.

Question 3 - Exemption for IMGs with general scope registration in New Zealand who are accredited college trainees

This will facilitate training in Australia for IMGs who may not be in the final two years of their College training.

Question 4 - The role of the specialist colleges

The role of the Colleges as described is appropriate.

Question 5 - The process for approaching specialist colleges

The process for applying on a Board application form is appropriate

Question 6 - Information for the specialist colleges

Currently the information provided is sufficient; however this needs to be monitored to ensure that no further evidence/information needs to be supplied for Colleges to reach a decision.

Question 7 - Renewing registration beyond 24 months

The renewal of registration beyond 24 months for IMGs on short term training should be permitted only in exceptional cases. The short term training candidate should be required to return to their home country at the end of 24 months.

Question 8 - Specialist pathway – comparability assessment

IMGs undertaking short term training should be able to apply for the specialist pathway but only after they have returned to their home country after the completion of their short term training. Transfer from short term training directly to the specialist pathway should be permitted only in exceptional cases.

Question 9 - Change in circumstances

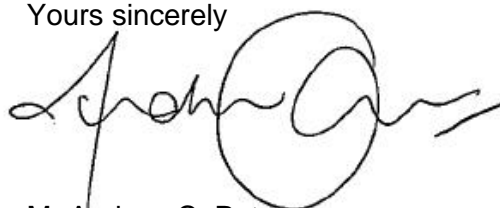
Colleges can provide advice regarding the change in circumstances of the designated Area of Need position where IMGs are employed as specialists. However it will be difficult for Colleges to monitor and track the requirements for non-specialist positions and provide advice to the Board on suitability of training for such non-specialist positions. This may impact on the workload of the Colleges.

Question 10 Definitions for genuine specialist-in-training, internationally qualified specialist and genuine training program.

The RANZCP finds these definitions appropriate.

Should you have any queries regarding the RANZCP feedback, please contact Ms Elaine Halley, General Manager - Education and Training, via email to elaine.halley@ranzcp.org or by phone (03) 9601 4950.

Yours sincerely



Mr Andrew C. Peters
Chief Executive Officer

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