

March 6, 2020

Dr Anne Tonkin
Chair
Medical Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

Email: medicalboard@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr Tonkin

Consultation on proposed Standards for the SIMG assessment process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed revised *Good practice guidelines for the specialist international medical graduate assessment process* (the Guidelines).

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), including the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is committed to high standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine.

ANZCA provides a professional, well-managed set of processes applicable to the pathways open to overseas trained anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists seeking to practice in Australia or New Zealand.

ANZCA supports revised Guidelines and appreciates the responsiveness of the Medical Board in considering comments from the first round of consultation.

There is one area that ANZCA suggest further improvement. The introduction should include an explicit statement about professional code of conduct under additional factors that are required. Specifically ANZCA believes the last paragraph in the Introduction should include:

These additional factors include their experience, recent specialist practice, *adherence to professional codes of conduct* and continuing professional development (DPD) activities since they obtained a specialist qualification

Then subsequent sections could reference this as 'professional attributes' where there are references to training, qualifications, clinical practice, CPD etc (section 8, 8.12. 8.1.3, 8.2, 8.2.1 etc)

The objectives of the National Scheme are: to provide for the protection of the public by ensuring that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. The key feature of the National Law is "to assess a SIMG's ability to competently and safely practice in a specialty."

"To serve the community by fostering safety and high quality patient care in anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine."

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this review. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email [REDACTED] if you have any questions on the feedback provided.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Associate Professor Michael Steyn
Chair, Specialist International Medical Graduates Committee