



# The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

**Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency  
G.P.O. Box 9958  
Melbourne VIC 3001**

Via email: [medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au)

27 September 2024

## **RANZCR response to Medical Board of Australia (the Board)'s proposal to require health checks for late career doctors (aged 70 and older)**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) is committed to improving health outcomes for all, by educating and supporting clinical radiologists and radiation oncologists. RANZCR is dedicated to setting standards, professional training, assessment and accreditation, and advocating access to quality care in both professions to create healthier communities.

RANZCR creates a positive impact by driving change, focusing on the professional development of its members, and advancing best practice health policy and advocacy, to enable better patient outcomes.

RANZCR members are critical to health services: radiation oncology is a vital component in the treatment of cancer; clinical radiology is central to the diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury.

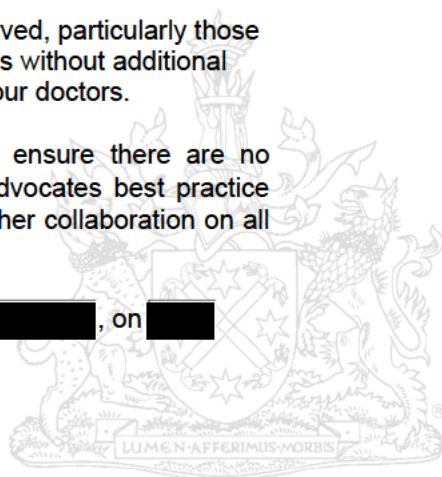
RANZCR believes that relying on the existing guidance (Option 1: maintaining the status-quo) is the best course of action. In consultation with our key committees and clinicians, RANZCR would like to draw the attention of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) to the below:

- RANZCR is concerned with the proposed changes as imposing blanket age-based restrictions may cause an attrition of experienced doctors in an already stretched workforce.
- This would negatively impact patient care as well as the training of junior doctors, particularly in regional and rural areas.
- RANZCR is apprehensive that if options 2 and 3 were to be implemented, there is inadequate evidence to support the claims that late career doctors are detrimental to patient care, and mandatory detailed health assessments could result in undue burdens on clinicians and the wider healthcare system.
- By supporting the status quo, the autonomy of clinicians is preserved, particularly those in later career stages who can effectively follow existing guidelines without additional mandatory checks and safeguard the professional judgement of our doctors.

RANZCR welcomes the opportunity to work with the government to ensure there are no inadvertent adverse patient outcomes during this process. RANZCR advocates best practice health policy to enable better patient outcomes and looks forward to further collaboration on all and any other related health matters.

For queries or further information, please contact [REDACTED], [REDACTED], on [REDACTED] or email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely





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