



AOA

AUSTRALIAN
ORTHOPAEDIC
ASSOCIATION

16 December 2011

Dr Joanna Flynn
Chair
Medical Board of Australia
National Office
GPO 9958
Melbourne Vic 3001

Dear Dr Flynn

The Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA) is the peak professional body for orthopaedic surgeons in Australia. AOA provides high quality specialist education, training and continuing professional development. AOA is committed to ensuring the highest possible standard of orthopaedic care and is the leading authority in the provision of orthopaedic information to the community.

AOA is aware that the Medical Board and six other health practitioner Boards are currently consulting on the definition of 'practice'.

AOA would contend that the current definition of 'practice' needs simplifying and should not undermine what medical practitioners are currently doing. The Medical Board of Australia (MBA) needs to ensure that practitioners who are not performing direct patient care still are part of the broader medical fraternity. For example a non-practicing medical practitioner should have a type of registration that is not so proscriptive about clinical professional development points (CPD) but with holds rights such as writing prescriptions.

Currently, non-operating orthopaedic surgeons undertaking medico-legal, teaching and 'doctor' roles on committees are required to undertake CPD. Clearly this requirement is difficult if not, impossible, to achieve in a non-clinical arena. AOA suggests that a modified form of CPD be undertaken

AOA would submit the following definitions of practice for your consideration:

1. Medical Practice
2. Senior Registration or Senior 'Active' Registration

Medical Practice

Medical practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It can also include using professional knowledge in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory,

regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession as long as the practitioner maintains a role involving some direct clinical care.

AOA would suggest that this type of registration would require the practitioner to fully comply with the CPD requirements of their relevant College.

Senior 'Active' Registration

Senior 'Active' registration means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner but are not in an active direct clinical care role in their profession. For the purposes of this type of registration standard, practice is using professional knowledge in a non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

AOA would suggest that this type of registration would require the practitioner to fully comply with modified CPD requirements of their relevant College.

Provisos for activation of this category of registration should be:

- Attainment of 55 years of age and retirement from clinical practice
- Maintenance of medical insurance
- The practitioner remains subject to all public protection regulations including disciplinary procedures

AOA would be keen to assist the Medical Board of Australia in further refining the definitions of practice if required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Mercer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Mercer
President