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**Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council**

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31 March 2010

Ms Anne Copeland  
Chair  
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
PO Box 16085  
Collins Street West  
MELBOURNE VIC 8007

Dear Ms Copeland

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 2010, in relation to revised proposals submitted by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board) on mandatory registration standards, and registration standards for endorsement for nurse practitioners, and for endorsements for scheduled medicines for eligible registered nurses and eligible midwives.

Pursuant to section 12 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law), as enacted by participating jurisdictions, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) has decided to approve the following registration standards submitted by the Board – with the approval taking effect on 1 July 2010 to coincide with the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme:

- criminal history registration standard
- English language requirements registration standard
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard
- continuing professional development registration standard
- recency of practice registration standard
- registration standard for endorsement of nurse practitioners in accordance with section 95 of the National Law.

Further, in accordance with section 14 of the National Law, the Ministerial Council has decided to approve the Board's proposal for an endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines for registered nurses (rural and isolated practice), to take effect on 1 July 2010. The approval is for:

- *Class of health practitioner* – any person registered as a registered nurse under the National Law whose registration has been endorsed by the Board in accordance with section 94 of the National Law
- *Type of use* – endorsed as qualified to obtain, supply, and administer, a class of scheduled medicines (as per below)
- *Class of scheduled medicines* – Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines for nursing practice in a rural and isolated area.

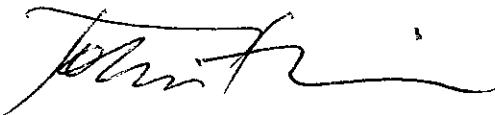
In approving the scheduled medicines endorsement in relation to registered nurses (rural and isolated practice), the Ministerial Council would like to acknowledge the collaborative approach taken by the Board in developing a specific proposal that will ensure the ongoing service delivery by current State and Territory nursing registrants transitioning into the national scheme on 1 July 2010, who are similarly endorsed in their jurisdiction. It is noted that that the endorsement will be reviewed by the Board within 12 months after its commencement.

I now turn to the Board's proposal for an endorsement for scheduled medicines for eligible midwives. At our meeting of 31 March 2010, the Ministerial Council decided to defer consideration of this proposal, pending the outcome of further priority discussions between the Board, and Commonwealth, State and Territory officials, to clarify the range of measures necessary to implement midwife prescribing by 1 November 2010.

I would like to congratulate the Board on submitting its final proposals for the nursing and midwifery profession in Australia to the Ministerial Council.

We trust that the Ministerial Council's decision to approve the registration standards and related proposals as outlined in this letter will assist the Board to implement the proposals in the lead-up to the national scheme's full commencement on 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely



John Hill  
CHAIR, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH, South Australia