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## **AMA submission to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency- Public Consultation Paper on International Criminal History Checks**

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The AMA has considered the options proposed in the consultation paper for managing international criminal history checking of applicants for registration. The AMA considers that the most preferable of those options is Option 2 – Applicant provides criminal history clearance evidence with application.

The AMA considers the majority of international applicants will be able to provide a criminal history clearance. Where an applicant is unable to provide a criminal history clearance, the applicant should be required to demonstrate they have made reasonable and timely efforts to obtain a clearance without success, but over a reasonable time period to avoid a frustrating delay for the applicant. Those applicants unable to provide a criminal history clearance should be required to provide a notarised declaration documenting the efforts to obtain such clearance and declaring an absence of a personal criminal history. This declaration should also have documentary evidence that the applicant sought the appropriate certificate from the relevant jurisdiction attached.

The AMA believes that all applicants who can provide a criminal history clearance should do so. Option 2 balances the need for timely registration of suitable medical practitioners with an arrangement that deters potential registrants who have serious criminal offences from applying and secondly detects any prior criminal offences that should impact registration.

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