

31 May 2013

AHPRA
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

Email: guidelinesconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Madam / Sir

RE: Common Codes and Guidelines consultation

Thank you for asking the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia to comment on the above documents.

The College is supportive of the documents and would like to make the following suggestions, marked in bold and underlined, for the draft revised *Code of conduct for registered health practitioners*:

Page 46 - Section 8.12 - "*Financial and Commercial dealings*" second dot point under *f*.

8.12 Financial and commercial dealings

Practitioners must be honest and transparent in financial arrangements with patients or clients. Good practice involves:

- a. not exploiting the vulnerability or lack of knowledge of patients or clients when providing or recommending services
- b. not encouraging patients or clients to give, lend or bequeath money or gifts that will benefit a practitioner directly or indirectly
- c. not accepting gifts from patients or clients other than tokens of minimal value such as flowers or chocolates and if token gifts are accepted, making a file note or informing a colleague where possible
- d. not becoming involved financially with patients or clients; for example, through loans and investment schemes
- e. not influencing patients or clients or their families to make donations to other people or organisations
- f. being transparent in financial and commercial matters relating to work, including dealings with employers, insurers and other organisations or individuals and in particular:
 - declaring any relevant and material financial or commercial interest that a practitioner or his or her family might have in any aspect of the care of the patient or client

- declaring to patients or clients any professional and financial interest in any product **or service** a practitioner might endorse or sell from **or co-locate with** his or her practice and not making an unjustifiable profit from the sale or endorsement **or co-location**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bronwen Ross".

Dr Bronwen Ross
Deputy Chief Executive Officer