



# COAG Health Council

meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

Communiqué

3 March 2016

## Health Ministers announce National Board members and Board Chair appointments

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) is very pleased to announce the following National Board appointments:

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (ATSIHPBA)

- **Mrs Celia Harnas** – appointed as new practitioner member from South Australia from 29 February 2016 to 1 July 2017.

### Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA)

- **Mr Ian Dummett** – appointed as new practitioner member from a small jurisdiction (Tasmania) on the CMBA from 29 February 2016 to 1 July 2017.

### Medical Board of Australia (MBA)

- **Dr Susan O'Dwyer** – appointed as new practitioner member from Queensland on the MBA from 1 March 2016 to 31 August 2018.

### Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (OTBA)

- **Ms Julie Brayshaw** – appointed as the new Chair of the OTBA from 29 February 2016 to 1 July 2017, the remainder of her continuing term as a practitioner member from Western Australia.
- **Mrs Rachael Kay** – appointed as new practitioner member from South Australia from 1 March 2016 to 1 July 2017.

Health Ministers extended a warm welcome to Mrs Harnas, Mr Dummett, Dr O'Dwyer and Mrs Kay for their first terms on the National Boards, and thanked them for expressing their interest in, and commitment to, the principles of the national scheme and the regulation of health practitioners in the public interest.

Ministers congratulated Ms Brayshaw on her new appointment as Chair of the OTBA. Ms Brayshaw's succession to this leadership role reflects the depth and breadth of her skills and experience, including those gained as practitioner member from Western Australia since her inaugural appointment in 2011, and as the board-elected presiding member, following Dr Mary Russell's resignation as Chair earlier this year. Ministers also thanked Dr Russell for her

dedication, leadership and contributions to the national scheme since 2011 as the inaugural Occupational Therapy Board Chair and practitioner member from South Australia.

Health Ministers thanked all registered health practitioners who took the time to apply for these vacancies when advertised last year. There were statutory eligibility requirements for registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and occupational therapists to be from South Australia for these respective board vacancies, and for registered Chinese medicine practitioners to be from Tasmania or the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory for the Chinese Medicine Board vacancy. There was also a statutory eligibility requirement for the vacancy on the Medical Board, with candidates needing to be from Queensland.

Ministers acknowledged the diversity of experience of the practitioners who applied, and thank practitioners for the interest shown in the work of the National Boards.

The Ministerial Council's appointments are made under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory and are consistent with the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)-endorsed *National Board Member Succession Planning Principles*.

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