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Our Ref: 60-17800

Ms Renee Owen, Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

Professor Charlie Xue, Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

Ms Julie Brayshaw, Chair, Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

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Via mail: [helen.townley@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:helen.townley@ahpra.gov.au)

Dear National Board Chairs

**National Boards' proposed revised recency of practice registration standards**

Thank you for your joint letter of 30 November 2018 seeking approval of revised recency of practice registration standards.

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, the Ministerial Council decided on 3 June 2019 to approve the revised registration standards as recommended by the National Boards and as listed below:

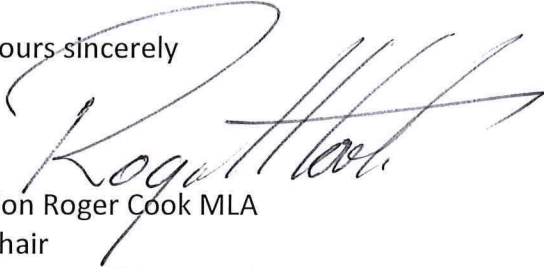
- (a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia. Registration standard: recency of practice
- (b) Chinese Medicine Board of Australia. Registration standard: recency of practice
- (c) Occupational Therapy Board of Australia. Registration standard: recency of practice.

In approving the revised registration standards, Ministers noted your advice that research commissioned during the review identified that there is little available literature and empirical evidence to help National Boards set recency of practice requirements for registrants' to maintain safe and competent practice within their scope, and in particular that existing research has not identified a definitive number of hours of practice that will ensure a practitioner remains competent. However, we note that the National Boards have mostly recommended hours in the revised standards that are consistent with those set by most of the other boards who completed scheduled reviews in 2015. We ask that National Boards continue to take a cross-profession approach to these scheduled reviews and use available evidence where possible to set a consistent benchmark across professions so that greater harmonisation may be achieved into the future.

Ministers also noted the proposed approach to implementing the approved revised registration standards – that is, that the standards will commence approximately six (6) months after approval is received and align as much as possible with the renewal cycles for each profession to enable advance notice to be given where there are changes from the existing standards.

Thank you for bringing the National Boards' proposals to Ministerial Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cook', written in a cursive style.

Hon Roger Cook MLA  
Chair  
COAG Health Council

30 June 2019