

Public consultation

8 February 2021

Draft revised registration standard: Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners

Summary

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) is consulting on a draft **revised** registration standard for *Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners*.

Under the National Law¹, health practitioners who wish to use the protected title 'acupuncturist' must either have their registration endorsed for acupuncture by the relevant National Board or be registered with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

The current and draft revised registration standards define the requirements for granting endorsement of registration for acupuncture for medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration.

Making a submission

The Board is inviting comments on the draft revised registration standard for *Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners*. There are also specific questions which you may wish to address in your response.

Please provide written submissions by email, marked: 'Consultation on draft revised standard for acupuncture endorsement' to medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au **by close of business on 5 April 2021**

Submissions for publication on the Board's website should be sent in Word format or equivalent².

Submissions by post should be addressed to the Executive Officer, Medical, Ahpra, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne 3001.

Publication of submissions

The Board publishes submissions at its discretion.

The Board generally publishes submissions on its website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders. Please advise us if you do not want your submission published.

We will not place on our website, or make available to the public, submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the subject of the consultation. Before publication, we will remove personally-identifying information from submissions, including contact details.

The views expressed in the submissions are those of the individuals or organisations who submit them and their publication does not imply any acceptance of, or agreement with, these views by the Board.

¹ Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory

² You are welcome to supply a PDF file of your feedback in addition to the word (or equivalent) file, however we request that you supply a text or word file. As part of an effort to meet international website accessibility guidelines, Ahpra and National Boards are striving to publish documents in accessible formats (such as word), in addition to PDFs. More information about this is available at www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Accessibility.aspx.

The Board accepts submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth), which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence. Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your submission, or want us to treat all or part of it as confidential.

Published submissions will include the names of the individuals and/or the organisations that made them, unless confidentiality is requested.

Background

Under section 38 of the National Law, National Boards may develop and recommend registration standards to the Ministerial Council for approval. The National Law requires National Boards to ensure there is wide-ranging consultation on the content of any proposed registration standard, code or guideline.

The Board's current registration standard *for Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners* came into effect on 11 December 2012. The current standard is due for review and in keeping with good regulatory practice the Board is reviewing the standard and has developed a draft **revised** standard for consultation.

The title 'acupuncturist' is a protected title under the National Law. Health practitioners who wish to use the title must either have their registration endorsed for acupuncture by the relevant National Board for their profession or be registered by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

Section 97 of the National Law states:

- (1) A National Board may endorse the registration of a registered health practitioner registered by the Board as being qualified to practise as an acupuncturist if the practitioner—
 - a. holds either of the following qualifications relevant to the endorsement—
 - i. an approved qualification;
 - ii. another qualification that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved qualification; and
 - b. complies with an approved registration standard relevant to the endorsement.
- (2) An endorsement under subsection (1) must state—
 - a. that the registered health practitioner is entitled to use the title 'acupuncturist'; and
 - b. any conditions applicable to the practice of acupuncture by the registered health practitioner.

Proposed changes

The Board is not proposing any substantial changes to the current requirements for endorsement of registration for acupuncture and is not proposing any additional requirements. The proposed changes are:

1. editorial in nature, including rewording and restructuring to improve readability
2. aligning the requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) in acupuncture to the Board's registration standard for CPD, and
3. removal of expired transitional arrangements that were in place for medical practitioners who were practising acupuncture before the title 'acupuncturist' became a protected title.

Proposal to align CPD requirements for acupuncture with the Board's CPD registration standard

The current standard requires medical practitioners with registration endorsed for acupuncture to complete prescribed CPD in acupuncture as follows:

1. for specialists – activities related to acupuncture within the requirements of an accredited specialist medical college CPD program or if not available, undertake a minimum of 10 hours per year additional self-directed CPD that is relevant to acupuncture
2. for medical practitioners with general registration only – of the 50 hours CPD required per year, 10 hours per year must be CPD in acupuncture or complete the CPD requirements in acupuncture of an accredited specialist medical college.

The Board proposes that medical practitioners endorsed for acupuncture comply with the Board's registration standard for CPD (as revised from time to time). The CPD standard requires registered medical practitioners who are engaged in any form of practice to participate regularly in CPD that is relevant to their scope of practice in order to maintain, develop, update and enhance their knowledge, skills and performance to ensure that they deliver appropriate and safe care.

This proposal aims to ensure that the requirements for CPD are consistent for all medical practitioners and aims to ensure the continued relevance of the acupuncture standard.

Removal of expired transitional arrangements

The current standard includes transitional arrangements for granting endorsement to medical practitioners who did not hold approved qualifications for acupuncture but who were practising acupuncture before 1 July 2012 – the date 'acupuncturist' became a protected title.

The transitional arrangements expired in 2015 and therefore are not included in the proposed revised standard. Since 1 July 2015, medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration who are seeking endorsement must hold an approved qualification in acupuncture.

Options

The Board has considered the following options in developing this proposal.

Option 1 – Retain the status quo

Option 1 is to continue with the existing standard. The standard would continue to include outdated information which may create confusion for applicants and the standard would continue to prescribe CPD requirements related to acupuncture.

Option 2 – Proposed revised standard

Option 2 is to revise the current standard.

While the Board has drafted a revised standard for consultation, it will take all stakeholder feedback into consideration. That is, the registration standard that is proposed to Ministers for approval will be informed by feedback.

For the purposes of consultation, the Board is proposing a draft revised registration standard that continues to set out the requirements for granting endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners. The proposed revisions are mostly editorial in nature (rewording and restructuring) to improve readability and updated to ensure currency of requirements, such as removing the expired transitional arrangements and aligning CPD requirements for acupuncture to the Board's registration standard for CPD (as revised from time to time).

Preferred option

The Board prefers Option 2.

Issues for consultation

Potential benefits and costs of the proposal

The benefits of the preferred option are that the draft revised standard:

1. maintains the balance between protecting the public and the impact on medical practitioners, by ensuring only registered medical practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified in acupuncture have their registration endorsed for acupuncture
2. clearly sets out the requirements for granting endorsement of registration for acupuncture
3. remains relevant and minimises the potential for confusion by removing outdated information
4. ensures the CPD requirements for medical practitioners endorsed for acupuncture aligns with the Board's registration standard for CPD
5. has been edited and restructured to improve readability.

The Board's preferred option does not propose any substantial changes to the current requirements for endorsement of registration for acupuncture and does not propose any additional requirements. Therefore, the costs of the preferred option will be minimal and confined to medical practitioners becoming familiar with the revised standard.

Estimated impacts of the draft revised standard

The Board does not propose any significant changes to the current requirements for endorsement of registration for acupuncture, although more significant changes may emerge through consultation. The Board does not anticipate any impact on medical practitioners, businesses, patients and consumers including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other stakeholders arising from the changes proposed.

Relevant sections of the National Law

The relevant sections of the National Law are sections 38, 40, 41 and 97.

Questions for consideration

The Board is inviting general comments on the draft revised standard as well as feedback on the following questions.

1. From your perspective, how is the current standard working?
2. Is the content and structure of the draft revised standard helpful, clear, relevant and more workable than the current standard?
3. Is there any content that needs to be changed, added or deleted in the draft revised standard?
4. Are there any impacts for patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community that have not been considered in the draft revised standard?
5. Are there any impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples that have not been considered in the draft revised standard?
6. Do you have any other comments on the draft revised standard?

Attachments

Attachment A: Draft revised registration standard: *Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners*

Attachment B: The Board's statement of assessment against Ahpra's Procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines and Council of Australian Governments (COAG) principles for best practice regulation

Attachment C: The Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Statement

The current standard *Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners* is published on the Board's website, accessible from www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards

**Attachment A: Draft revised registration
standard**

Medical Board of Australia

**REGISTRATION STANDARD:
ENDORSEMENT OF REGISTRATION
FOR ACUPUNCTURE FOR
REGISTERED MEDICAL
PRACTITIONERS**

Effective from: TBC

Summary

This registration standard sets out the Medical Board of Australia's minimum requirements for granting endorsement of registration for acupuncture to medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration.

Medical practitioners who wish to use the title 'acupuncturist' must either have their registration endorsed for acupuncture by the Medical Board of Australia or be registered by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

Background

The National Law provides for the endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered health practitioners. It is a breach of the National Law for a person to take or use the title 'acupuncturist' if that person is not registered by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia or if their registration has not been endorsed by one of the National Health Practitioner Boards.

Section 97 of the National Law states:

- (1) A National Board may endorse the registration of a registered health practitioner registered by the Board as being qualified to practise as an acupuncturist if the practitioner—
 - a. holds either of the following qualifications relevant to the endorsement—
 - i. an approved qualification;
 - ii. another qualification that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved qualification; and
 - b. complies with an approved registration standard relevant to the endorsement.
- (2) An endorsement under subsection (1) must state—
 - a. that the registered health practitioner is entitled to use the title 'acupuncturist'; and
 - b. any conditions applicable to the practice of acupuncture by the registered health practitioner.

Medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration can apply for

endorsement of registration for acupuncture if they have been awarded a qualification approved by the Medical Board of Australia (the Board). The Board publishes a list of approved programs of study for the purposes of registration and for endorsement of registration for acupuncture available at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to medical practitioners who hold;

1. general and/or specialist registration, and
2. a Board approved qualification in acupuncture.

This standard does not apply to registered medical students or medical practitioners who hold limited registration, provisional registration or non-practising registration.

What must I do?

When you apply for endorsement of your registration

To meet this registration standard, you must:

1. hold general and/or specialist registration
2. provide evidence of having been awarded an approved qualification for endorsement of registration for acupuncture
3. meet the Board's registration standard for recency of practice, specifically in relation to the practice of acupuncture
4. provide a curriculum vitae, specifically in relation to the practice of acupuncture, that meets the standard format that has been approved by the Board or Ahpra.

If you have been awarded an approved qualification for acupuncture in the 12 months prior to applying for endorsement of registration, you are deemed to meet the Board's recency of practice registration standard.

During the registration and endorsement period

Recency of practice

You are expected to comply with the Board's registration standard for recency of practice available at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

Meeting the Board's minimum requirements for recency of practice doesn't automatically satisfy your professional and ethical responsibilities to ensure that you recognise and work within the limits of your competence and maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

Continuing professional development

You are expected to comply with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development (CPD) available at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

If you are engaged in any form of practice you are required to participate regularly in CPD that is relevant to your scope of practice in order to maintain, develop, update and enhance your knowledge, skills and performance to ensure that you deliver appropriate and safe care.

This means that if your scope of practice includes acupuncture, your CPD must include activities related to acupuncture.

At renewal of registration

An application for renewal of registration will be taken to be an application for renewal of the endorsement.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this standard, including that:

1. the Board can impose a condition or conditions on your endorsement or can refuse your application for endorsement or renewal of endorsement if you don't meet a requirement in an approved registration standard for the profession (sections 99, 100, 101, 102 and 103 of the National Law), and
2. registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate professional conduct or practice for the health

profession (section 41 of the National Law).

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Ministerial Council on <date>.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

Definitions

Approved qualification for endorsement of registration for acupuncture means a program of study accredited by the Australian Medical Council and approved by the Board as providing a qualification for the purposes of endorsement. The Board publishes a list of approved programs of study for endorsement of registration for acupuncture at www.medicalboard.gov.au.

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

Continuing professional development is the means by which members of the profession maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives.

Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

Last reviewed: <date>

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 11 December 2012.

Attachment B: Statement of assessment

The Board's statement of assessment against Ahpra's Procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines and COAG principles for best practice regulation

Proposed revised Registration standard: Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) has *Procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines* which are available at: www.ahpra.gov.au

These procedures have been developed by Ahpra in accordance with section 25 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) which requires Ahpra to establish procedures for the purpose of ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice.

Below is the Medical Board of Australia's (the Board) assessment of its proposal for a draft revised registration standard: *Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners*.

1. The proposal takes into account the National Scheme's objectives and guiding principles set out in section 3 of the National Law

Board assessment

The Board considers that the draft revised standard meets the objectives and guiding principles of the National Law.

The proposal considers the National Scheme's key objective of protecting the public by ensuring only medical practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified in acupuncture have their registration endorsed for acupuncture.

The proposal also supports the National Scheme to operate in a transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair way by providing a clear and transparent framework for assessing applications for endorsement of registration in a consistent manner.

2. The consultation requirements of the National Law are met

Board assessment

The National Law requires wide-ranging consultation on proposed standards, codes and guidelines. The National Law also requires the Board to consult the other National Boards on matters of shared interest.

The Board is now undertaking public consultation to gauge views on the proposed registration standard. The process will include the publication of the consultation paper on its website, informing medical practitioners of the consultation via the Board's electronic newsletter sent to more than 95% of registered medical practitioners. The Board will also invite key stakeholders to comment on the proposed registration standard including other National Boards, professional organisations, patient safety organisations, consumer groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups.

The Board will take into account the feedback it receives when finalising the draft revised registration standard that it will submit to the Ministerial Council for approval.

3. The proposal takes into account the COAG Principles for Best Practice Regulation

Board assessment

In developing the draft revised standard, the Board has taken into account the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) *Principles for Best Practice Regulation*.

As an overall statement, the Board has taken care not to propose unnecessary regulatory burdens that would create unjustified costs for the profession or the community.

The Board makes the following assessment specific to each of the COAG Principles expressed in the Ahpra procedures.

COAG Principles for Best Practice Regulation

- A. Whether the proposal is the best option for achieving the proposal's stated purpose and protection of the public

Board assessment

The proposal aims to ensure the continued relevance of the standard for granting endorsement of registration to medical practitioners by removing outdated information and ensuring alignment with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development (CPD). The proposed standard will continue to define the requirements for endorsement of registration for acupuncture for medical practitioners who wish to use the title 'acupuncturist'. The proposal protects the public by ensuring only medical practitioners who are appropriately trained and qualified in acupuncture are eligible for endorsement.

- B. Whether the proposal results in an unnecessary restriction of competition among health practitioners

Board assessment

The proposal will not restrict competition as it would apply to all registered medical practitioners.

- C. Whether the proposal results in an unnecessary restriction of consumer choice

Board assessment

The proposal does not substantially change current requirements for endorsement of registration and does not propose additional requirements. The proposal is not expected to restrict consumer choice. The proposal supports consumer choice by facilitating access to medical practitioners who are qualified to practice acupuncture. Medical practitioners with an endorsement for acupuncture will have this endorsement recorded against their name on the public Register of Medical Practitioners.

- D. Whether the overall costs of the proposal to members of the public and/or registrants and/or governments are reasonable in relation to the benefits to be achieved

Board assessment

The proposal does not substantially change current requirements for medical practitioners and does not propose additional requirements. The Board does not expect any additional costs to medical practitioners, the public or government.

The public will benefit from a standard that ensures only medical practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified are endorsed for acupuncture and can call themselves an 'acupuncturist'.

- E. Whether the proposal's requirements are clearly stated using 'plain language' to reduce uncertainty, enable the public to understand the requirements, and enable understanding and compliance by registrants

Board assessment

The Board considers the draft revised registration standard has been written in plain English that will help practitioners and the public to understand the requirements for endorsement. The Board has changed the structure of the standard and reviewed the wording to improve readability.

- F. Whether the Board has procedures in place to ensure that the proposed registration standard, code or guideline remains relevant and effective over time

Board assessment

The Board has procedures for regularly reviewing standards, codes and guidelines. If approved, the Board will review the revised standard at least every five years, including an assessment against the objectives and guiding principles in the National Law and the COAG principles for best practice regulation.

However, the Board may review the standard earlier, in response to any issues which arise or new evidence which emerges to ensure the standard's continued relevance, workability and maintenance of public safety standards.

National Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Statement

February 2021

Statement purpose

The National Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Statement (Statement)³ explains the potential impacts of a proposed new or revised registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of the public, vulnerable members of the community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The four key components considered in the Statement are:

1. The potential impact of the proposed revisions in the registration standard on the health and safety of patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
2. The potential impact of the proposed revisions in the registration standard on the health and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
3. Engagement with patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community about the proposal
4. Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about the proposal.

The National Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Statement aligns with the [National Scheme's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Health and Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#), the [NRAS Strategy 2020-25](#), the [NRAS Engagement Strategy 2020-25](#) and reflect key aspects of the consultation process in [Ahpra's procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines and accreditation standards](#).

³ This statement has been developed by Ahpra and the National Boards in accordance with section 25(c) and 35(c) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). Section 25(c) requires Ahpra to establish procedures for ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice. Section 35(c) assigns the National Boards functions to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the health profession including the development of registration standards for approval by the COAG Health Council and that provide guidance to health practitioners registered in the profession. Section 40 of the National Law requires National Boards to ensure that there is wide-ranging consultation during the development of a registration standard, code, or guideline.

Below is our initial assessment of the potential impact of a proposed revised registration standard for *Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners* on the health and safety of patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This statement will be updated after consultation feedback.

1. How will this proposal impact on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community? Will the impact be different for vulnerable members compared to the general public?

The draft revised registration standard proposes minor changes to:

1. remove outdated information and
2. ensure requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) for medical practitioners whose registration is endorsed for acupuncture align with the Board's currently approved registration standard for CPD.

There is no change to the qualification requirements for endorsement for acupuncture.

The Medical Board Australia (the Board) has considered the impacts that the proposal could have on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community. In doing so, the Board considered the National Scheme's key objective of protecting the public by ensuring only medical practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. This registration standard supports that objective by ensuring that only medical practitioners who are appropriately qualified can have their registration endorsed for acupuncture.

Endorsement of registration for acupuncture gives a strong signal to patients and consumers that the practitioner is qualified to perform acupuncture.

The Board does not expect that the revisions to the standard will have any adverse impacts on patient and consumer safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community. However, the Board will be consulting with peak bodies, patient safety bodies and other relevant organisations on the proposed changes to ensure there are no unidentified impacts. Our engagement through consultation will help us to better understand possible outcomes and meet our responsibilities to protect patient safety and health care quality.

2. How will this consultation engage with patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community?

In line with our approved consultation processes, the Board is now undertaking wide-ranging public consultation on its proposal for a revised registration standard. The Board will engage with patient safety bodies and consumer organisations, peak bodies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and other relevant organisations to get input and to identify any issues for vulnerable consumers and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

A list of the stakeholder groups who have been sent this consultation paper can be found at the end of this impact statement.

3. What might be the unintended impacts for patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community? How will these be addressed?

The proposal does not substantially change current requirements for endorsement and does not propose additional requirements that would impact on patients and consumers. The Board does not expect there to be any unintended impacts for patients and consumers, including vulnerable members of the community. However, the consultation process will help us to identify any potential or unintended impacts.

The Board will fully consider and take action to address any potential impacts that are raised during the consultation process.

4. How will this proposal impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? How will the impact be different for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples compared to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?

The proposal does not substantially change current requirements for endorsement and does not propose additional requirements that would impact on patients and consumers. Therefore, the Board does not expect there to be any potential impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as a result of the proposal.

Only medical practitioners with current general and/or specialist registration can be granted endorsement of registration for acupuncture. All registered medical practitioners are subject to the Board's registration standards, codes and guidelines. The Board's code of conduct requires all registered medical practitioners to provide culturally safe care, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The Board's engagement through wide-ranging consultation will help us to identify any potential impacts and meet our responsibilities to protect safety and health care quality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

5. How will consultation about this proposal engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?

The Board is committed to the National Scheme's *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Health and Safety Strategy 2020-2025* which focuses on achieving patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the norm, and the inextricably linked elements of clinical and **cultural safety**.

As part of our consultation process, we will engage with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and stakeholders to ensure there are no unintended consequences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We have also invited the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board to comment on the proposal.

6. What might be the unintended impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? How will these be addressed?

The proposal does not substantially change current requirements for endorsement. In particular, the qualification requirements remain the same. Therefore, the revised standard should not impact on quality of services or access to services.

The Board has considered what might be any unintended impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. While the Board does not expect there to be any unintended impacts, our engagement with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and stakeholders will help us to identify any potential impacts. We will consider and take action to address any potential impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples arising from the consultation process.

7. How will the impact of this proposal be actively monitored and evaluated?

The Board has procedures for regularly reviewing standards, codes and guidelines. If approved, the Board will review the revised standard at least every five years.

However, the Board may review the standard earlier, in response to any issues which arise or new evidence which emerges to ensure the standard's continued relevance, workability and maintenance

of public safety standards. In particular, the Board will review the registration standard earlier if unintended consequences on the health and safety of the public, vulnerable members of the community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples were to arise.

Stakeholder consultation list

February 2021

Proposed revised registration standard: Endorsement of registration for acupuncture for registered medical practitioners

A list of the stakeholder groups who have been sent this consultation paper:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups
- Commonwealth, State and Territory Health Departments
- Consumer organisations
- Employer groups
- Health Professions Accreditation Councils
- Medical and medical acupuncture education providers
- Medical defence organisations
- Medical professional associations
- National Health Practitioner Boards
- Patient safety bodies
- Registered medical practitioners
- Specialist medical colleges.
- State and Territory Health Complaints Entities

The consultation paper is also accessible on the Medical Board of Australia's website, under News, then [Current consultations](#).