

ANF (SA BRANCH) - incorporating



September 10, 2008

Bronwyn Nardi
Chair
Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee
Of the Health Workforce Principle Committee

Dear Ms Nardi,

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions (National Regulation)

We, the Australian Nursing Federation (SA Branch), Nurses Board of South Australia, Australian Medical Association (SA) Inc and Medical Board of South Australia have reviewed the Intergovernmental Agreement and 'Consultation Paper on Issues Supplementary to the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions'. This submission represents our mutually agreed position on the following three key issues.

1. Standards and Professional Self Regulation

National regulation must uphold the primacy of self-regulation in the public interest. This means standards for each profession must be determined by the relevant profession. As such, the Australia's Health Workforce Advisory Council (AHWAC) should have no role to play in the review of policies and standards set by the professions.

2. Governance and Powers

National Boards must have the capacity to direct and deal with staff/services in a timely and effective manner and be funded in a manner that enables them to properly execute their functions.

It is our position that the National Boards ought to be established as statutory authorities, with perpetual succession, a common seal, the capacity to sue and be sued in their corporate names, the power to enter into contracts, acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of property, conduct general banking and make financial investments. The funding of each National Board ought to be via the fees, fines and penalties of the relevant professional group, with no cross-professional subsidisation.

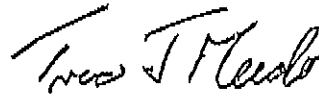
3. Accountability and Representation

Board/committee positions must be representative and accountable. It is it is our position that a proportion of State/Territory committee members should be elected by members of the relevant profession in the relevant State/Territory.

Yours sincerely,



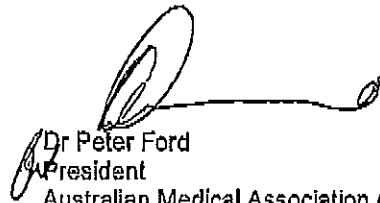
Elizabeth Dabars
Secretary
Australian Nursing Federation (SA Branch)



Dr Trevor Mudge
President
Medical Board of South Australia



Alyson Smith
CEO & Registrar
Nurses Board of South Australia



Dr Peter Ford
President
Australian Medical Association (SA) Inc