

21 October, 2008

Practitioner of Regulations Sub committee
National Health Ministers' Advisory Council

To Whom It May Concern

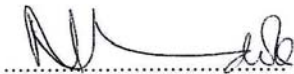
The Capricornia Division of General Practice welcomes the move to establish a nationwide registration process for health professionals and strongly supports the Queensland Occupational Therapy Registration Board in their application to include Occupational Therapist in the registration process.

The Occupational Therapists are a valuable part of the health workforce and are well trained important members of the primary health care team, bringing knowledge and skills which no other team member has. Registration nationally will allow patients to differentiate good from bad practitioners. Registration will also allow greater protection of the public from poor standards and will give them an avenue for complaint. National standards can be applied to the registration of both local and overseas practitioners with benefits to the recruitment of practitioners without the risks inherent in using overseas trained practitioners without a robust registration process.

In addition, to leave the Occupational Therapists out of the process will downgrade their status and threaten their access to Medicare funding which would be a great loss to Australian healthcare consumers.

We strongly support the Queensland Occupational Therapy Registration submission for inclusion in the national registration process.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nicki Murdock
BOARD CHAIR