

HEALTH COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER

TASMANIA

Ms Megan Cahill
Chair
Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee
National Health Workforce Taskforce
Level 12/120 Spencer Street
Melbourne Vic 3000



Dear Ms Cahill

Thank you for your letter of 14 July 2008, inviting me to make a submission to the Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee about whether certain partially regulated professions should be included in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Of the partially regulated professions that you mention, the only ones that are significantly represented in complaints to my office are dental technicians and optical dispensers. However, I have no reason to believe that the activities of either of these professions pose a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of the public, or are not sufficiently regulated at the State level.

The risk of harm to the health and safety of the public would appear to me to be the most critical of the criteria being used in determining whether any additional professions should be subject to national regulation.

The one partially regulated profession which would most clearly satisfy this criterion is that of medical radiation practitioners. The activities of this profession – or more properly the various professions which fall within this category – involve inherent risk to public health and safety. However, I have to say that I am not aware of any complaints to this office about this profession, or of the making of complaints to the Medical Radiation Science Professionals Registration Board of Tasmania.

If the Subcommittee is aware of a significant volume of complaints against this profession involving a serious threat to public health and safety, I would support the inclusion of the profession in the National Scheme.

Yours sincerely

SIMON ALLSTON
OMBUDSMAN
HEALTH COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER

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