

Medical Services Committee

Established under the Health Administration Act 1982

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Accreditation Arrangements Submission
Attention:
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15 December 2008

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions Arrangements for accreditation :-- Submission

The Medical Services Committee has considered the consultation paper and provides the following advice.

Australian medical education is recognised, worldwide, to be of the highest standard.

The achievement of high uniform standards of medical courses throughout Australia and New Zealand has been achieved over many years of cooperation between universities and more recently, in 1985, with the establishment of the Australian Medical Council.

The Committee has previously indicated that it is essential that there must be no interference with the present mechanisms, that have been evolved over many years and are now accepted by all major medical education facilities in Australia and New Zealand and many other countries abroad including Ireland.

Australia provides for examiners to be available as co-examiners for overseas medical education institutions.

In the interests of all concerned it is essential that the present system and standards are maintained and improved.

It is recommended that:--

The legislation provides for the present system of medical accreditation, involving the AMC, to continue, and continue to evolve, indefinitely, not just for three years as proposed.

The proposals in the discussion document does not provide any indication that those responsible for the production of the document have any conception of the magnitude of the task of accreditation of a university medical course and in ensuring that satisfactory standards are achieved and continue to be met.

For the protection of the public it is essential that the present standards of medical education are maintained. It is also essential that the standards of medical education in Australia continue to be recognised worldwide.

Those medical practitioners who have worked for any time abroad are extremely appreciative of the high standards that have been insisted upon and achieved in Australia.

The proposals, regarding accreditation, in the discussion document are considered to be inadequate to meet the requirements of accreditation of medical education in this country.

Peter Holman

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Chairman