



THE ROYAL  
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS  
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National Health Workforce Taskforce  
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Attention: Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee

**RANZCP response to consultation paper - “Proposed arrangements for specialists within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions”**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (“the College”) continues to offer its support in developing arrangements for the proposed *National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions*. The College welcomes amendments made in response to feedback on the earlier discussion paper, particularly in relation to medical specialist arrangements, notably:

- The continuing obligation to consult across professions regarding quality and safety, including scope of practice issues;
- Specialist endorsement provisions are confined to registration purposes only and is not to be linked in legislation to matters such as Medicare; and
- Provisions for profession specific continuing competence standards are recognised, which will help ensure high standards of professional practice in psychiatry are maintained.

The College endorses the emphasis given to attaining and maintaining competent standards of practice. The College considers the proposal that the national board (for the medical profession) take advice from the Australian Medical Council on the range of specialties and associated specialist qualifications as appropriate, but notes there is no specific mention of Medical Colleges in determining qualifications for and the development of standards for specialist practice.

The College would like to reiterate it’s commitment to working with government and other stakeholders to ensure the new registration and accreditation arrangements deliver improvements in the safety and quality of health care to the community. Similarly, the College remains committed to working collaboratively in other areas of reform to improve the availability of high quality and sustainable mental health and other services to the community. The College stresses, however, that safety and quality ought not be put at risk or compromised in the process. Ensuring psychiatrists meet the rigorous training and education standards required of College Fellowship is the appropriate benchmark for registration to practice in this area.

The College also reaffirms that, for similar reasons, it does not support a relaxation of prescribing privileges. It is important that the concerns which underlie such proposals are made explicit so that

options to address those concerns can be properly developed and considered and options. The College would be happy to participate in such activities.

Thank you for considering this and our previous correspondence on this important subject. Again, the College remains eager to work collaboratively with government and other stakeholders to ensure reform leads to improved health outcomes for the community and the high standards of practice upon which such outcomes rely are reinforced in the process.

Should you have any queries regarding this letter or would like to discuss these issues please contact Dr Sharon Brownie, CEO on +61 3 9601 4912 or email [Sharon.brownie@ranzcp.org](mailto:Sharon.brownie@ranzcp.org).

Yours sincerely



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