

Council of Procedural Specialists

Re: COAG/IGA Proposals And Legislation

SUPPORT

1. The ability of a medical practitioner to practice in all states and territories in Australia through a **single agreed registration process separate from any other profession or occupation**. Debate over the criteria for simultaneous registration of doctors must involve **extensive and meaningful consultation** with the Australian Medical Profession to prevent the erosion of the standard required to become a licensed medical practitioner in order to maintain and **enhance the standard of medical care that all Australians have come to expect**.
2. The **establishment of a national register** comprising the names of all medical practitioners eligible for national registration separate from any other profession or occupation (i.e. **national medical registration to be an administrative function only**).
3. **University Medical Schools and Medical Colleges continuing their unique education and training role as autonomous self governing bodies** dedicated to the delivery of the highest possible standard of medical care **with accreditation by the Australian Medical Council** or similar body comprising experienced medically qualified and distinguished practitioners [i.e. **the unique and separate role of university medical schools and medical colleges to be maintained and enhanced**].
4. **The continuation of State Medical Boards** in the role of disciplinary/ counseling bodies, provided that Boards ensure due process with right of appeal and the **reversal where necessary of the erosion of medical representation** (in quality and quantity) on these Boards. This is necessary to ensure that the disciplinary process has the trust and confidence of the medical profession and the Australian public.

DO NOT SUPPORT

The current proposals as detailed in the COAG/IGA support documents and accompanying legislation, particularly as they relate to a task substitution agenda. COPS maintains that administrative improvements can be achieved at minimal cost within the existing framework without the creation of new federal structures and wider legislation and regulation

Any policy which would erode the standing and reputation of the Australian Medical profession is contrary to the welfare of individual patients who rely on the expertise of medical practitioners in the efficacious treatment of serious illness and injury.

*Australian Society of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery
Australian Society of Ophthalmologists
Australian Association of Surgeons
Australian Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons*