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12 November 2008

Mr Peter Carver
Executive Director
National Health Workforce Taskforce
GPO Box 4057
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, 3001

Attention: Practitioner Regulation Sub-Committee

Dear Mr Carver

Re: Consultation paper: Proposed Registration Arrangements

I write to you on behalf of the University of Adelaide to express our serious concern with respect to the recommendation that there be no statutory restriction on the use of the titles "doctor" and "professor" as set out within Section 8 of the Consultation Paper pertaining to "Title Protection".

At present both titles require rigorous academic qualifications and high standards of performance, and this is reflected in the generally accepted public understanding of the role of staff holding these titles. Not only would the use of these titles as 'courtesy titles' severely undermine the value of the title in the tertiary sector, it would also be misleading in terms of the expectation of the general community that such staff are highly trained experts in their fields.

Accordingly, the University would not support any expansion of the use of the titles of "doctor" and "professor" beyond the well accepted applications currently in use that are based upon medical or other appropriate academic qualifications.

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MIKE BROOKS
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)