



Standing Council on Health
(meeting as Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council)

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Mr Glenn Ruscoe
Chair
Physiotherapy Board of Australia
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Dear Mr Ruscoe

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2011, recommending that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the AHWMC) approves three Registration Standards in relation to limited registration for physiotherapists.

I also thank you for your letter of 9 January 2012, providing the requested information on the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) revised supervision for physiotherapists.

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to Section 12 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act*, as in force in each State and Territory, the AHWMC decided on 27 April 2012 to approve the registration standards submitted for the following –

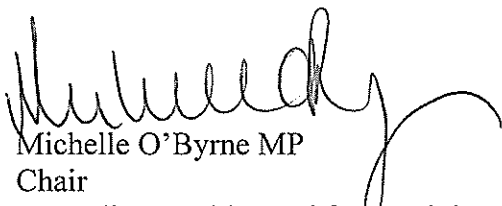
- (a) Limited registration for supervised practice or postgraduate training
- (b) Limited registration in the public interest
- (c) Limited registration for teaching and research.

We note the advice from the Board that the three registration standards will build flexibility for internationally qualified physiotherapists whose training may be different from that of an Australian trained physiotherapist by allowing for limited registration within a defined and limited scope of practice. We also note that this approach is to provide for the continued protection of the public by ensuring that physiotherapists granted limited registration practise subject to supervision and with appropriate restrictions on their practice scope.

Further, we understand that the Board will implement its revised Supervision Guidelines at the same time as the approved limited registration standards. Ministers note your advice that the revised Guidelines provide a more flexible model of supervision than has been available to date. In particular, we note that the proposed Supervision Plan will take account of each individual's circumstances, including practice location, and will not hinder the ability for supervisors to provide (and for supervised practitioners to receive) remote supervision. Ministers acknowledge the Board's approach for each Supervision Plan to be considered by State and Territory Physiotherapy Boards to bring local expertise and knowledge to the decision-making process.

We trust that the AHWMC's approval will enable the Board to implement, as soon as practicable, the registration standards to replace the existing Board-approved Guideline on Limited Registration.

Yours sincerely



Michelle O'Byrne MP
Chair

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

24 May 2012

cc: Director Board Services AHPRA, Chris.Robertson@ahpra.gov.au