



# Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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Mr Peter Pangquee  
Chair  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Mr Pangquee

Thank you for your letter of 23 November 2011, recommending that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the AHWMC) approves mandatory and grandparenting registration standards for the regulation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice profession.

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 20 December 2011 to approve the following registration standards as submitted by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (the Board):

- a. Continuing professional development registration standard;
- b. Criminal history registration standard;
- c. English language skills registration standard;
- d. Professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard;
- e. Recency of practice registration standard;
- f. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander registration standard; and
- g. Grandparenting provisions registration standard.

I would like to congratulate the Board on submitting its final proposals for the profession before the end of 2011, so that the Board can launch an early call for applications for registration early this year. Ministers noted that the approved registration standards will apply from 1 July 2012, but in the meantime, approval will provide certainty for practitioners who will automatically transition into the scheme and those who will need to apply for national registration to understand the eligibility and ongoing requirements for registration.

It is hoped that the decision made by the AHWMC to approve the registration standards as outlined in this letter will assist the Board with their ongoing preparatory work in the lead-up to the commencement of the regulation of the profession under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2012.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Kim Hames MLA  
Chair  
Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

11 January 2012

cc: Director Board Services AHPRA, [Chris.Robertson@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Robertson@ahpra.gov.au)