

FORUM OF AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCILS

The Forum of Australian Health Professions Councils supports the establishment of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC), its terms of reference and its comprehensive design principles.

The Forum was established in 2007. It is a new coalition of professional standards bodies for the regulated health professions: chiropractic, dentistry, medicine, nursing and midwifery, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, and psychology.

The bodies which make up this group collectively have expertise in:

- setting educational standards for health professionals to develop safe and competent practitioners able to adapt to changes in professional practice over time
- encouraging improvements in the education and training of health professionals to respond to evolving health needs and practices
- assessing and accrediting education programs
- assessing overseas qualified practitioners
- collaborating and consulting with a wide range of stakeholder bodies and actively engaging members of their professions in the regulation of professional practice
- regional and international developments, capacity building and partnerships.

While we recognise that the terms of reference of the NHHRC are interconnected, we see the Forum's expertise as most able to contribute to the NHHRC's term of reference (h) which is to "provide a well qualified and sustainable health workforce into the future".

The Forum sees the NHHRC agenda as building in part on work such as the 2005 Productivity Commission report *Australia's Health Workforce* and the *Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions*. Forum members have contributed individually and collectively to this work. The Forum is committed working collaboratively and to playing a role in the reform process to improve Australia's health system and to identifying strengths which should be retained and built on.

We support the aim of national registration for the regulated health professions, and that of national accreditation schemes to ensure practitioners are educated to appropriate standards. The Forum has begun work to share expertise to improve quality and safety and reduce barriers to productivity. It is working particularly on good practice in assessment of overseas-trained practitioners and in accreditation of health professions education and training.

The Forum welcomes opportunities to contribute to the work of the NHHRC and ultimately to the design of an improved health care system in Australia.

Yours sincerely



Dr Philip Donato
Chair
Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia



Dr Joanna Flynn
President
Australian Medical Council



**Ms Jane Duffy for
Mr Daryl Guest**
Chair
Optometry Council
Australia and New Zealand

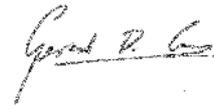


Dr Robert Fendall

Osteopath Registration Boards



Professor Joan McMeeken
Chair
Australian Physiotherapy Council



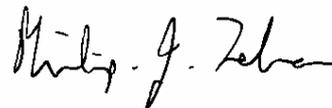
Dr Gerard Condon
President
Australian Dental Council



Professor Mary Chiarella
Chair
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council



Professor Elizabeth Frost
President
Australian Pharmacy Council



Dr Philip Tehan



Professor Gina Geffen
Chair
Australian Psychological Accreditation
Council

