

14 February 2023

Dr Anne Tonkin
Chair, Medical Board of Australia
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Via e-mail: medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr Tonkin,

RE: Submission to Medical Board of Australia consultation on revised telehealth guidelines

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft revised *Guidelines: Telehealth consultations with patients*.


RANZCO is the medical college responsible for the training and professional development of ophthalmologists in Australia and New Zealand. Our mission is to lead eye care by setting and improving standards, providing lifelong education, promoting research and innovation and advocating on behalf of patients, their communities and our membership.

We support the Board's decision to merge and revise the existing guidance, and simplify the advice. We think the content and structure of the revised Guidelines are clear, relevant and workable, and we have nothing else to suggest to be added to the Guidelines.

In some of our Fellows' experience, telehealth in ophthalmology provides the opportunity to increase the availability of high quality and timely access to healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in remote areas, especially to fast track and improve attendance for cataract surgery. However, we acknowledge that telehealth is only part of the solutions to improving access to safe and quality care. Face-to-face interaction is still essential for certain clinical conditions, and it is important to develop therapeutic relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. Revising the guidelines will only enhance existing access if the necessary resources will be available to improve the necessary connectivity anywhere where it is not satisfactory.

We look forward to the launch of the Guidelines.

Yours Sincerely



Mark Carmichael
RANZCO CEO