

Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Assessment – Registration standard: Granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of postgraduate year one training

29 March 2023

Assessment purpose

The National Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Assessment¹ explains the potential impact of a proposed registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of the public, vulnerable members of the community and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The four key components considered in the Assessment are:

1. The potential impact of the registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
2. The potential impact of the registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
3. Engagement with patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community about the proposal
4. Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about the proposal.

The National Boards' Health and Safety Impact Assessment aligns with the *National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Health and Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#), [National Scheme engagement strategy 2020-2025](#), [National-Scheme-Strategy 2020-2025](#)* and reflect key aspects of the revised consultation process in the [AManC Procedures for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines and accreditation standards](#).

¹ This assessment has been developed by Ahpra and the National Boards in accordance with section 25(c) and 35(c) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). Section 25(c) requires AHPRA to establish procedures for ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice. Section 35(c) assigns the National Boards functions to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the health profession including the development of registration standards for approval by the COAG Health Council and that provide guidance to health practitioners registered in the profession. Section 40 of the National Law requires National Boards to ensure that there is wide-ranging consultation during the development of a registration standard, code, or guideline.

Below is our assessment of the impact of the Medical Board of Australia's registration standard: *Granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of postgraduate year one training* on the health and safety of patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

1. How will the registration standard impact on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community? What are the actions that have been taken to address or prevent this?

It is considered that the Medical Board of Australia's (the Board's) registration standard will have a positive impact on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community. The standard responds to the changes to postgraduate year one training (also known as medical internship) arising from the Australian Medical Council's National Framework for Prevocational (PGY1 and PGY2) Medical Training (the AMC Framework) and supports flexible and innovative approaches to intern training requirements, including flexibility in settings and locations.

In line with our consultation processes, the Board undertook wide-ranging consultation with peak community and consumer groups. Our engagement through consultation has assisted us to meet our responsibilities to protect patient safety and health care quality.

The Board does not expect that the standard will have any adverse impacts on patient and consumer safety, particularly for vulnerable members of the community. The standard enables a flexible training model for interns that can evolve to meet the changing needs of the community where the intern is practising while ensuring interns meet a standard of practice expected for general registration.

The Board has also considered the National Scheme's key objective of protecting the public by ensuring only medical practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. This registration standard supports that objective by ensuring that only medical practitioners who are appropriately qualified and who satisfactorily complete intern training are granted general registration.

Submissions will be published on the Board's [Past consultations page](#).

2. How will this proposal impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? What are the actions that have been taken to address or prevent this?

The Board is committed to the National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#) which focuses on achieving patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the norm, and the inextricably linked elements of clinical and [cultural safety](#). As part of the consultation process, we have undertaken wide-ranging consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups.

The Board has carefully considered any potential impact of the standard on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and how the impact compared to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples might be different. The Board considers that the standard will have a positive impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' health and safety. Our engagement through consultation has further informed the standard to help us to meet our responsibilities to protect patient safety and health care quality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The registration standard operationalises the AMC Framework that includes the competencies to be achieved by interns for general registration and the accreditation standards for intern training programs. The AMC engaged with, and received input from, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups on new competencies to strengthen knowledge and skills in cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The AMC Framework also emphasises the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health needs, cultural safety, the recruitment and retention of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce and requires training providers to attend to the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prevocational doctors.

Continuing to engage with relevant organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples will help us to identify any other future impacts.

3. How will the impact of the registration standard be actively monitored and evaluated?

Part of the Board's work in keeping the public safe is ensuring that all Medical Board standards, codes and guidelines are regularly reviewed.

In keeping with this the Board will regularly review the registration standard to check that they are working as intended. The Board will also respond to any issues which arise or new evidence which emerges to ensure the standard's continued relevance, workability and maintenance of public safety standards. In particular, the Board will review the registration standard if unintended consequences on the health and safety of the public, vulnerable members of the community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples were to arise.