



# Health Ministers' Meeting

ATTN: National Health Secretariat  
c/- NSW Ministry of Health  
Level 7, 1 Reserve Road  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
(02) 9461 7900  
nationalhealthsecretariat@health.nsw.gov.au

Ms Rachel Phillips, Chair, Psychology Board of Australia  
Adjunct Professor Danforn Lim, Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia  
Dr Wayne Minter AM, Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia  
Dr Murray Thomas, Chair, Dental Board of Australia  
Dr Anne Tonkin AO, Chair, Medical Board of Australia  
Ms Cara Miller, Chair, Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia  
Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
Ms Rebecca Singh, Chair, Occupational Therapy Board of Australia  
Mr Stuart Aamodt, Chair, Optometry Board of Australia  
Associate Professor Paul Orrock PhD, Chair, Osteopathy Board of Australia  
Professor Stephen Gough ASM, Chair, Paramedicine Board of Australia  
Mr Brett Simmonds, Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia  
Ms Kim Gibson, Chair, Physiotherapy Board of Australia  
A/Prof Cylie Williams, Chair, Podiatry Board of Australia

Via email: [Ahpra.Secretariat@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:Ahpra.Secretariat@ahpra.gov.au)

Dear National Board Chairs

## **Approval of the revised English Language (ELS) registration standards**

Thank you for your letter of 12 March 2024 on behalf of National Boards participating in the review of the ELS registration standards, recommending approval of the revisions to the common registration standard and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) registration standard.

I am pleased to advise that the Ministerial Council has agreed to approve the revised ELS registration standards, in accordance with section 12 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory on 14 June 2024.

We note National Board Chairs' advice that the revised ELS registration standard will enable more practitioners to safely meet English language skill requirements while also strengthening public protection and addressing recommendations of the Kruk review. We are pleased that the revisions recognise more English language tests; make a minor and appropriate reduction in the writing scores of the test pathway for all professions except medicine and occupational therapy; and recognise additional countries. We also welcome your advice that the common standard makes a minor evidence-based adjustment to strengthen the robustness of the advanced education pathway.

We recognise that the revised ELS standards achieve greater consistency across professions, making it easier for applicants, employers, consumers and other stakeholders to understand the ELS requirements.

We also note your advice that Ahpra and National Boards are planning a further program of work on ELS issues to explore possible future improvements to ELS requirements and enable Boards to be more responsive to emerging ELS issues.

Ministers also agree with your proposal that the revised registration standards take effect approximately six months after our communication of approval, but with the change to remove South Africa as a recognised country to have a longer transition of about 12 months after approval.

We trust that the advance publication of the revised registration standards will ensure that all stakeholders are aware of, and have time to adjust to, the revisions.

Thank you for bringing the National Boards' proposal to Health Ministers.

Yours sincerely



Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
Chair  
Health Ministers' Meeting

21 / 6 / 2024