



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Office of the Dean

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To whom it may concern:

AHPRA consultation on international criminal history checking

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issue of international criminal history checking.

The comments of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (**the College**) on the *Public Consultation Paper – Consultation on International Criminal History Checking – September 2013* are set out below.

1. In principle the College supports the checking of the criminal history of overseas medical practitioners seeking registration to practise in Australia and existing practitioners who disclose a change in their criminal history.
2. In principle the College considers it acceptable to engage the services of one service provider to undertake the checks.
3. The College does not have a strong view on whether an applicant should reside in a jurisdiction for three or six months before triggering the need to obtain a criminal history check for that jurisdiction.
4. For existing practitioners who disclose to AHPRA a change in their criminal history in accordance with s109 and s130 of the National Law, the College recommends that the cost to the existing practitioner of obtaining a criminal history check is **only** the actual cost of the criminal history check.
5. Has AHPRA considered to what extent, if at all, it can rely upon the criminal history checking regime of the Department of Immigration?
6. Has AHPRA considered to what extent, if at all, it can adopt a criminal history checking regime that is the same as that of the Department of Immigration?
7. Has AHPRA considered to what extent, if at all, future Australian employers of overseas medical practitioners may be able to rely upon or obtain access to AHPRA's criminal history checks?
8. Does s79 of the National Law as currently drafted allow AHPRA to engage an agency to provide criminal history checks for jurisdictions other than the jurisdiction where the agency is located?
9. The College would be interested to know how AHPRA will respond to the information obtained through criminal history checking, particularly its approach to minor infractions and offences that are not considered criminal in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Professor Richard Doherty
Dean