

5 May 2017

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Department of the House of Representatives

Email: jsct@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretariat

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission on the Agreement to amend SAFTA.

James Cook University (JCU) has a special relationship with Singapore; aside from educating the many students who have travelled to our Australian campuses from Singapore, we have significantly invested in teaching Singaporean students at our Singapore campus for more than 14 years. The quality of our efforts has been recognised by the Singaporean Government, with agreement for JCU to use the restricted word 'university' included in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. JCU appreciates the efforts of the Australian Government in negotiating this outcome.

In this submission, we request the Singapore government grant the JCU campus in Singapore exemptions from the Private Education (PE) Act:

- i. Exemption from having to seek permission to deliver and register all its courses with CPE.
- ii. Exemption from having to register any teachers/lecturers/academics with CPE for teaching deployment.
- iii. Exemption from having to seek EduTrust accreditation.

JCU applauds the Australian and Singaporean Governments' intent to further progress mutual recognition of qualifications. We therefore seek to have JCU's Law degrees recognised by Singapore. We note that 10 other Australian universities currently have their qualifications recognised meaning that Singaporeans and individuals with Singaporean permanent resident status who have earned a bachelor's degree in law can be admitted to the Singapore Bar if they meet all other criteria.

We further seek to have JCU's Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology, Nursing, Midwifery and Veterinary degrees recognised in Singapore, in line with the recognition granted to other Australian universities who have been included in previous agreements. JCU's strengths in tropical medicine, allied health and public health are closely aligned to Singapore's current challenges to enhance its healthcare talents, improve the care of its aging population and control the spread of disease.

Please find below a list of qualifications we are seeking recognition for within the SAFTA. We would be very pleased to meet with negotiators to work through the rationale in detail.

James Cook University: List of degree programs proposed for inclusion in SAFTA

MBBS, MBBS (Hons)
Bachelor of Dental Surgery
Bachelor of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy, Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Hons)
Bachelor Speech Pathology, Bachelor Speech Pathology (Hons)
Bachelor of Physiotherapy, Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Hons)
Bachelor of Nursing Science
Bachelor of Nursing Science/Bachelor of Midwifery

Bachelor of Veterinary Science
Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
Bachelor of Laws (Graduate), Bachelor of Laws (Graduate) (Hons)

Yours sincerely

Professor Sandra Harding
Vice Chancellor and President