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12 June 2009

Senator Claire Moore
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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Dear Senator Moore

Inquiry into the Health Workforce Australia Bill 2009 ('the Bill'): supplementary submission

Universities Australia was pleased to provide evidence to the Committee on June 11, 2009. I note the Committee is to report on 16 June, 2009. This short supplementary submission to the Committee focuses on the governance provisions in the Bill.

Officials from the Department of Health & Ageing gave evidence indicating the Health Workforce Australia Board would most likely comprise the Chief Executives from the State and Territory Departments of Health as representing eight of the nine Government positions on the Board.

Universities Australia notes the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) comprises the Head (plus one other senior officer) of each of the Australia Government, State and Territory and New Zealand Health authorities, and the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs. AHMAC is charged with providing effective and efficient support to the Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC) on strategic issues relating to the coordination of health services across the nation and this includes planning, information sharing and innovation.

Universities Australia recommends the Committee give consideration to amending the current draft legislation in relation to the composition of the HWA Board. Two positions should be filled by the Chair of AHMAC and a nominee of the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing to ensure effective, high level linkage back to the Australian and State and Territory governments. The remaining positions must reflect balanced membership drawn from other stakeholders and experts in the fields of health workforce planning and education.

Yours sincerely,



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