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Council of Procedural Specialists

Submission

On the exposure draft of the
Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009

23 July 2009

Australian Society of Ophthalmologists

Australian Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Australian Association of Surgeons

Council of Procedural Specialists

1. The Council of Procedural Specialists (COPS) has examined in detail the document known as the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Exposure Draft, known as Bill B dated 12/6/09.
2. Representatives of the COPS have attended briefings and other meetings, the last being at NSW Parliament House on 24th June 2009 where issues surrounding the implementation of Bill B were discussed in detail.
3. COPS notes with grave concern difficulties outlined in submissions to the Senate Community Affairs Committee by the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC), the Western Australian AMA, the Federal AMA , the Australian Doctors' Fund, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and other groups.
4. COPS can find no compelling evidence to support the claim that Bill B and the national registration scheme (as it applies to the medical profession in other related documents) will enhance the ability of medical proceduralists to perform their professional role or improve patient safety and public confidence in the medical profession.
5. COPS maintains that as far as the medical profession is concerned, the aims of national registration **can be achieved by an upgrade of current computer databases of State medical boards.**
6. COPS maintains that the existing committee within the Australian Medical Council known as the **Joint Medical Boards Advisory Committee** could and **should be recognised and enhanced** to become the National Committee responsible for **harmonising state administrative procedures** relating to the registration of medical practitioners.
7. COPS fears that **the roles of the Australian Medical Council and the learned Specialist Medical Colleges would be jeopardised** by the introduction of the proposed legislation applying to medical practitioners. COPS believes this would be **detrimental to standards** of health care and would create **unnecessary uncertainty** about and a loss of confidence in an extremely successful model.
8. COPS will be pleased to address any of the above matters.