

The Secretary

Senate Community Affairs Committee

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

I refer to the call for submissions on the Inquiry into National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Doctors and Other Health Workers.

The terms of reference include the impact of “the scheme” on patient care and safety; and how “the scheme” will affect complaints management and disciplinary processes within particular professional streams. While the terms of reference do not indicate which scheme is being referred to, I understand that the scheme originally proposed by the national registration working party is to form the basis for comment.

I understand that the complaints management scheme originally proposed by the working party has, however, met with considerable opposition and I believe that it no longer forms the basis of current thinking about how this aspect of national registration may be implemented. In the absence of another scheme on which to comment, however, I attach for information my submission to the working party based on the original scheme.

I would be happy to provide a further submission in the event that an alternative scheme is proposed for comment.

Regards

Mary Durkin
Health Services Commissioner
Disability and Community Services Commissioner
Human Rights Commission