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Ms Robyn Kruk AO
Independent Reviewer
Health Practitioner Regulatory Settings Review
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NSW Submission – Independent Review of Overseas Health Practitioner Settings – Interim Report

Dear Ms Kruk

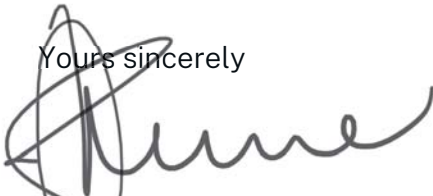


Thank you for your invitation to provide feedback on the Independent Review of Overseas Health Practitioner Settings – Interim Report.

Please find attached a preliminary response from NSW. The full NSW response will be provided as part of the interjurisdictional response being prepared following a state and territory workshop at the NSW Ministry of Health office on 9 June 2023.

Thank you again for writing. For more information, please contact Dr Linda Macpherson, A/Director, Workforce Strategy and Culture, NSW Ministry of Health, at linda.macpherson@health.nsw.gov.au or on 02 9391 9107.

Yours sincerely



Susan Pearce AM
Secretary, NSW Health

NSW Submission

Independent Review of Overseas Health Practitioner Settings – Interim Report

Preliminary submission

This is a preliminary submission. NSW final submission will be included with an interjurisdictional submission developed following a workshop with all states and territories, Ahpra and the Australian Medical Council on 9 June 2023.

Overall in-principle support

NSW supports in-principle the interim report and its objectives across the five priority areas:

- Improve the applicant experience
- Expand ‘fast track’ registration pathways
- Better workforce planning
- Greater flexibility, while supporting safety
- Enhance regulatory performance and stewardship

NSW also supports progressing with the “key areas for action now”

- Enable applicants to ‘tell us once’ in one place;
- Fast track more cohorts from trusted countries through competent authority pathways;
- Transitioning assessment of specialist medical graduates from medical colleges to the Australian Medical Council;
- Better recognise experience and skills to attract more experienced practitioners;
- Provide applicants with greater flexibility in demonstrating English language competency;
- Collect and publish better workforce data;
- Remove or suspend labour market testing for priority health professions and broaden age exemptions for permanent skilled visas

Key considerations for the final report (prioritisation/what’s missing)

NSW key considerations for the final report include the following. These are included as a preliminary submission. NSW broader advice will be included in the interjurisdictional submission developed after the 9 June 2023 workshop with all state/territories, Ahpra and the AMC.

- Selecting targeted professions for competent authority pathways (CAPs). Per key recommendations Ahpra and national boards will identify feasibility for expansion of CAPs. NSW supports targeting key medical specialties, nursing, and targeted allied health professions, based on jurisdictional and board advice. NSW along with jurisdictions will provide some further priorities following the 9 June workshop however these will also be revisited when boards provide advice during the implementation phase. Ahpra has advised that establishment of CAPs as indicated in the final report may cost \$10m in excess of registrant fees. A funding source should be identified to support this recommendation.

- Implementing an effective model for assessment of specialist international medical graduates (SIMGs). NSW supports the proposal that the Australian Medical Council manages the assessment process, noting that how this is operationalised needs further consideration. NSW is consulting further with jurisdictions and the AMC on options including via the 9 June 2023 interjurisdictional workshop.
- Leveraging the Ahpra transformation program and cross-agency action to remove duplication in the assessment and migration application systems. Ahpra has advised it will soon implement a significant systems and process upgrade across its regulatory activities. Further integration with migration and visa and other systems will be established to remove duplication and move toward the “tell us once”. Any additional funding beyond registrant fees should be identified to support this recommendation. Where possible non-registered professions should also have access to improved systems

NSW is also responding via the interjurisdictional Health Workforce Taskforce initiated response

The Health Workforce Taskforce has scheduled a jurisdictional workshop on 9 June 2023 with all states and territories, Ahpra and the Australian Medical Council. The purpose of the workshop is to generate interjurisdictional advice to inform both Health Ministers’ response to the final report and Robyn Kruk to support preparation of the report. Outcomes of the workshop will be prepared as soon as possible for submission to inform the final report.