

Our Ref: 60-17800

Ms Renee Owen  
Chair  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Via mail: [helen.townley@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:helen.townley@ahpra.gov.au)

Dear Ms Owen

Thank you for your joint letter of 30 November 2018 seeking approval of revised registration standards for the regulation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, the Ministerial Council decided on 3 June 2019 to approve the revised registration standards as recommended by the Board and as listed below:

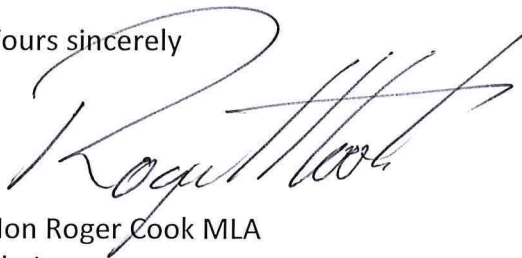
- (a) Registration standard: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- (b) Registration standard: English language skills.

In approving the revised registration standards, Ministers noted your advice that the recommended changes are minor and will improve the clarity and workability of these standards. In the case of the revised English language skills registration standard, we note that the Board drew on the work undertaken by other National Boards who have recently reviewed the equivalent standard for their professions, while also taking into account the unique characteristics of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice profession.

Ministers also noted the revised registration standards will commence approximately six (6) months after approval is received. We note the requirements will apply to new applicants for registration only and that appropriate transition arrangements and notice where there are changes from the existing standards will be provided by the National Board.

Thank you for bringing the National Board's proposals to Ministerial Council.

Yours sincerely



Hon Roger Cook MLA  
Chair  
COAG Health Council

30 June 2019