

## Communiqué

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### National Specialist IMG Committee Meeting: 29 May 2013

The National Specialist International Medical Graduate (IMG) Committee is established as a Committee of the Medical Board of Australia (the Board). The Committee meets quarterly.

#### Review of the specialist pathway

A nationally uniform assessment process for IMGs was implemented from 1 July 2008. This was an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and resulted in the establishment of three nationally consistent assessment pathways for IMGs. These are:

- Competent authority pathway
- Standard pathway
- Specialist pathway

All IMGs who apply for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice or limited registration for area of need are required to meet the requirements of one of the pathways.

As previously reported in past [Communiqués](#), the National Specialist IMG Committee (the Committee) has reviewed the specialist pathway for internationally qualified specialists seeking a comparability assessment or an assessment for an area of need position. The Committee has proposed changes to the pathway and has recommended that the Board consult on these proposals.

The Committee noted that the Board has been undertaking a public consultation on the proposed changes to the specialist pathway. The consultation closes on the 31 May 2013.

#### Specialist pathway – short term training

Stakeholders had requested clarification on the processes and requirements of the *specialist pathway – short term training* including clarification on the role of the Board and the role of the specialist medical colleges in the assessment of IMGs applying for limited registration postgraduate training or supervised practice under this pathway.

At the last meeting the Committee considered draft guidelines on the *specialist pathway – short term training* and recommended that the Board consult on these.

The draft guidelines aim to clarify the requirements for registration for medical practitioners who are in this pathway. They also describe the role of the specialist medical colleges in this process, including providing advice to the Board.

The Committee noted the Board is undertaking preliminary consultation on these guidelines ahead of wider public consultation which will occur later in 2013.

#### Specialist pathway workshop

The aim of the review of the specialist pathway is to streamline and simplify the assessment of IMGs. The proposed changes to the specialist pathway are mainly administrative.

Some of the feedback received to date on the review sought further detail on how the changes will be implemented if it is decided that applications for specialist assessment are to be made directly to the relevant college instead of the Australian Medical Council.

It will be important at the conclusion of the current review that whatever refinements are made are understood by those who work closely with IMGs in the assessment process.

The Committee noted that the Board will hold a workshop later in the year with key individuals and stakeholders, including the specialist colleges to support implementation if the proposed changes are to proceed.

**Dr Joanna Flynn AM**  
**Chair, National Specialist IMG Committee**

3 June 2013