

**25 Feb 2010**

## **Media Statement**

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### **Board Approves Specialist Registration for VR GPs**

The Medical Board of Australia yesterday decided to include vocationally registered general practitioners on the Specialist Register, which will be introduced across Australia with the new national registration scheme on 1 July 2010.

This means that vocationally registered GPs will be allowed to use the title specialist general practitioner, along with fellows of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Remote and Rural Medicine (ACRRM).

The Board made this decision as a one-off transitional arrangement, under the transitional provisions of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (the National Law).

Under the National Law, the Board must decide before the introduction of national registration on 1 July 2010, which medical specialties will be granted specialist recognition and listed on the Board's Specialist Register.

Board Chair, Dr Joanna Flynn, said after careful consideration the Board decided it was in the public interest to include vocationally registered general practitioners on the Specialist Register.

"These doctors have been participating in continuing education to maintain their vocational registration and have provided valuable services to their communities," Dr Flynn said.

The Board also finalised the list of specialist titles and fields of practice that will now be recommended to the Ministerial Council for approval ahead of the introduction of the national scheme.

### **Background**

The Commonwealth Government introduced vocational recognition in 1989 to recognise general practice in its own right and to acknowledge that the training

and ongoing education specific to general practice were important elements of maintaining high quality standards in general practice.

There are currently close to 11,000 GPs in Australia with vocational registration and approximately 11,000 GPs who are Fellows of either the RACGP or ACRRM.

All these practitioners will be listed on the Board's Specialist Register as Specialist General Practitioners.

Ends.

**Further information:**

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