

# Medical Board of Australia consultation on the funding of external doctors' health programs

Submission received from: **Samuel Craven**

## Question 1: Is there a need for health programs?

Do you see any value in, or need for external health programs for medical students and/or doctors? Please explain your reasoning

*As we have been taught, doctors have specific health care needs. Suicide, depression and addiction rates are all higher in our population than the community. Further, doctors often receive suboptimal care from other doctors because of problems with assumed knowledge, the difficulty with established healthcare roles and time. A specific health care service designed to overcome these barriers (such as the VDHP) goes a long way to resolving these problems.*

## Question 2: Preferred model for external health programs

Of the existing models in Australia as described above, is there a model that you would prefer to see adopted nationally? Is there an alternative model that you would like to see adopted nationally?

*I like the VDHP model.*

## Question 3: The role of the Board in funding external health programs

Do you believe that it is the role of the Board to fund external health programs?

*Yes. The board receives a large amount of funding each year from Doctors. The VDHP is a program which specifically targets doctor's health issues. I don't see why funding cannot come from this source.*

## Question 4: Range of services provided by doctors' health programs

What services should be provided by doctors' health programs. In addition to the ones you have selected, what other services (if any) should be provided by doctors' health programs?

*Telephone advice during office hours*

*Referral to expert practitioners for assessment and management*

*Develop and maintain a list of practitioners who are willing to treat colleagues*

*Education services for medical practitioners and medical students to raise awareness of health issues for the medical profession and to encourage practitioners and students to have a general practitioner*

*Case management and monitoring (including workplace monitoring) the progress of those who voluntarily enter into Case Management agreements (or similar) with the service*

*Follow up of all participants contacting or attending the service*

*Assistance in finding support for re-entry to work and rehabilitation*

*Research on doctors' health issues*

## Question 5: Funding

How much of an increase in registration fees is acceptable to you, to fund doctors' health services?

*>\$40*

## Question 6: Other comments

Do you have any other comments or feedback about external health programs?