



## Media release

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14 March 2012

### Board issues guidance on when to be registered

The Medical Board of Australia has decided not to change the definition of practice, and has instead issued guidance about when doctors need to be registered.

The Board consulted widely with the profession and the community on possible changes to the definition of practice referred to in a number of the Board's registration standards.

The consultation process drew out significant discussion and wide variation about the issues generated by the current definition. However, there was no consensus about the need for a change in the definition and no change proposed that did not also have unintended or unacceptable consequences.

Any change to the definition of practice would have required a change to each of the registration standards that currently reference the definition, which would in turn require the approval of all Australia's health ministers.

The Board guidance advises the profession about when doctors require registration and when it would be acceptable to the Board for a doctor to not be registered. The guidance will remain in place pending a wider, scheduled review of all the registration standards in 2013.

Medical Board of Australia Chair, Dr Joanna Flynn AM, said the Board made this decision after considerable thought.

"We certainly hope that this guidance will, in a simple and straightforward way, effectively address the problems the Board was trying to solve through a change to the definition of practice," Dr Flynn said.

#### *For more information*

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