

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

Submission received from: **Dr Alec Savicky**

## 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

*1. No. The premise for external health programs being funded from indemnity insurance is objectionable and duplicates the programs currently offered by student support services and those mentioned above*

## 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 do not see the need for the adoption of a national model because issues should be addressed at the local level with local expertise. This smacks of big brother intervention. Not a good idea. It has never worked.*

## 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?

*Absolutely Not.*

## 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?

*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*

## Question 5: Funding

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

*Nil*

## Question 6: Other comments

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

*The medical practitioners board should keep out of service delivery.*