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Medical Board of Australia

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Introduction

The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA) welcomes this opportunity to provide its feedback to inform the Draft Revised Guidelines 'Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship'. The RACMA represents and trains approximately 1,000 Medical Administrators in Australia and New Zealand across the domains of Medical Leadership and Management. The RACMA trains the next generation of specialist administrators while playing a lead role in developing best practice models to support excellence in medical leadership and management.

Fellows of our College hold senior positions across the Australian & New Zealand health sector in both public and private health services.

The role of the College is to:

- set educational standards;
- accredit educational programmes;
- organise a continuing education programme for Fellows and Members;
- conduct examinations;
- nurture, guide and encourage Candidates, Members and Fellows; and
- assist clinicians and public health personnel who are increasingly being required to manage their clinical departments and public health programmes and provide a clinical service

Medical administration is administration or management utilising the medical and clinical knowledge, skill, and judgement of a registered medical practitioner, and capable of affecting the health and safety of the public or any person. This may include administering or managing a hospital or other health service, or developing health operational policy, or planning or purchasing health services.

Societal change, cultural diversity, advances in science, technology and the need to meet public expectations in the delivery of safe, quality care are key areas in the role of our Fellows in the Australian health system.



Response

RACMA has reviewed the draft guidelines and prefers Option 2 as the most effective and workable for the MBA, individual medical practitioners and those who manage medical practitioners.

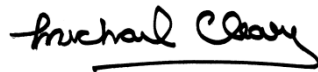
However, we do wish to note our concerns regarding the section on Chaperones/Observers.

The mooted change does not support the current requirement, that is reserved for a registered or enrolled nurse or appropriately trained person. This is potentially an avenue for non-clinically qualified observers and is not supported by RACMA. We would be happy to discuss our concerns in detail.

College Fellows, holding senior positions, such as Directors of Medical Services, will be involved in ensuring health facilities and services are able to provide safe and secure environments for consumers, health professionals and meet regulatory requirements.

The College hopes that this submission assists in the consultation process of the Draft revised guidelines. If you have any queries or require further detail, please contact the Chief Executive, Ms. Melanie Saba on Ph: [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Michael Cleary PSM
President, RACMA

