

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

8 September 2011

Ms J Katsoris
Executive Officer
Medical Board of Australia
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ACRRM's Mission

To advance and promote high quality professional standards, education, clinical best practice and patient safety in Rural and Remote Medicine

Dear Joanna

Thank you for inviting the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) to provide a response to the consultation paper on the proposed *registration standards for interns*.

The following comments are provided for your consideration regarding the proposed standards:

1. The increased flexibility in the way experience can be gained from rural general practice and rural hospitals is strongly supported;
2. The 8 weeks in "Emergency Medical Care" should remain as 8 weeks of "Emergency Medicine" to ensure this area of training is appropriately focussed and comprehensive;
3. The proposed changes fail to deal with or redress the apparent trend where "General Medicine" and "General Surgery" terms are being interchanged with medical and surgical subspecialty terms during intern placements. This is an important aspect of intern experience and competence which the Board should provide far greater clarity on regarding its expectations and requirements as part of these standards; and
4. There is a need to recognise "integrated" rural hospital clinical terms that blend traditional medical, surgical, emergency department and paediatrics clinical training experience. This is already occurring in some jurisdictions and should be actively recognised in the standards.

Once again thank you for providing ACRRM with the opportunity to review the draft standards and provide some feedback.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marita Cowie".

Marita Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

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