

14 February 2019

Hollie Bennett
Medical Council of New Zealand
PO Box 10509
Wellington 6143

By email: hbennett@mcnz.org.nz

Proposed changes to accreditation standards for New Zealand vocational training and recertification providers

Dear Hollie

Thank you for inviting the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) to provide feedback on the above consultation. The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with more than 5,000 members from all areas of medicine. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and to promote professional unity and values, and the health of all New Zealanders.

We acknowledge Council's work to strengthen current standards for New Zealand training organisations by aligning them more closely with Australian Medical Council (AMC) standards used for training organisations providing programmes in both Australia and New Zealand. This work will clearly be of most significance for colleges which are New Zealand based.

While the proposed standards are based on the AMC standards, we support Council adapting these standards, where necessary, to fit the New Zealand context. For example, we welcome the curriculum for vocational medical training including formal learning about Māori health inequities and the relationship between culture and health. We also support the document's overall generalist flavour and welcome Council's recognition in point 3.1.1, note b, that the New Zealand community and health system are better served by avoiding unnecessary fragmentation of medical knowledge, skills and medical care.

We would like Council to elaborate on point 3.2.5 about the curriculum preparing vocational trainees for their ongoing roles as professionals and leaders. We believe it would be useful to emphasise the importance of this aspect and clarify the role of doctors in leadership.

In point 3.2.10, note c, we believe the statement “the vocational medical training programme can facilitate an early start to research” should be strengthened such that “can” be changed to “should be encouraged to” or similar. There is a dearth of research occurring in General Practice and this can partly be attributed to the lack of encouragement to undertake formal grounding in research during training.

In point 8.2.1, we suggest the addition of another bullet point recognising that there are multiple accreditation standards for slightly differing requirements. For example, for RNZCGP members there might be a facility standard for teaching, another for Cornerstone and another as a Southern Cross service provider. We believe that these should either recognise each other’s standards or share a common core.

We hope our feedback is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Baddock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair