



NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Dear Joan

Implementation of a New Framework for Supervision of International Medical Graduates (IMGs)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed framework (as revised).

You will recall that when we initially submitted on this we were concerned about the lack of flexibility of the proposed framework and that it would impose impossible constraints for practitioners wishing to employ IMGs rural areas.

In principle the NZMA supports the twofold framework whereby an IMG can be covered either by an individual supervision plan or be supervised under an approved practice setting. If possible we would like to see some provision for the situation where a primary supervisor may not be working in the same scope of practice but may be involved in a related scope. For example, where a general practice and rural hospital are based in the same building, allowing a general practitioner at the practice to supervise a person working in the annexed rural hospital. While we acknowledge that this may be a step too far for the Council formally, we trust that it could be considered on a case by case basis.

We have had feedback however that the proposed framework may make it very difficult or expensive for small hospitals to recruit IMGs, particularly when it is done through an agency. Currently the IMG market is dominated by doctors looking for 6 month locum appointments. The proposed requirement for the IMG to spend 2-4 weeks away from the employing hospital may be financially

prohibitive for this market. We would be concerned if this was so and suggest that further consideration of these issues may be helpful.

Yours faithfully

Dr Peter Foley
Chair