



The Royal
Australian &
New Zealand
College of
Psychiatrists

Queensland Branch

3 October 2014

Mr Trevor Ruthenberg MP
Chair
Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email to hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Ruthenberg

Re: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

Thank you for consulting the Queensland Branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (the College) on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.

The College restricts its comments to the amendment to the *Mental Health Act 2000* at clauses 40 and 41 of the Bill.

The College understands that the amendments to the *Mental Health Act 2000* will ensure international medical graduates who do not qualify for general or specialist registration fall within the definition of 'psychiatrist' under the legislation and that this is necessary in order to harmonise with recent changes to Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency categories. We note the comments of Dr Michael Cleary, Deputy Director General, Health Service and Clinical Innovation, at the public briefing held on 10 September 2014 that this amendment will not change the way doctors are recognised to practice and that there will be no effect on the ground.

I have written to the Health Minister, the Honourable Lawrence Springborg MP, to seek his assurance that the above interpretation is correct and that this amendment to the *Mental Health Act 2000* is a change in form rather than substance and will not in-practice expand the scope of who is considered a psychiatrist for the purposes of the Act.

Provided this amendment is merely a procedural change and will not substantively alter the range of people classified as psychiatrists, the College has no concerns about the amendment.



Thank you again for seeking the College's views on this legislation.

If you require any further information regarding the issue, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Jessica Collins, Policy Officer, on telephone (07) [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

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A/Prof Dan Siskind
Chair