

1 April 2020

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Minister.Hunt@health.gov.au

Dear Minister,

A legislated objective of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law is to facilitate access to services provided by health practitioners in accordance with the public interest.

National Boards are required to have regard to this objective when carrying out their functions under this Law.

The National Boards for doctors and nurses are failing in this legal requirement.

- The Australian Medical Council and Medical Board of Australia have effectively stopped registering doctors from countries other than the UK, Canada, US and Ireland, as these Boards require these doctors to pass additional exams that the Boards have now cancelled.
- The Nursing and Midwifery Board continues to advise nurses from 63 countries - including Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, Israel and Taiwan – that their qualifications are 'unlikely' to be good enough to practice in Australia.

I request that you, through the COAG Health Council, direct these National Boards to immediately adopt policies that remove duplicative conditions on the registration of doctors and nurses, so that more appropriately-qualified doctors and nurses can be registered in this time of crisis.

Yours sincerely,



Duncan Spender
Chief Executive Officer
Multicultural Council of Tasmania