



Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

Secretariat
Post Office Box 344
RUNDLE MALL SA 5000
Telephone: (08) 8226 6191
Facsimile: (08) 8226 7244
E-Mail: secretariat@hcsmc.sa.gov.au

17 June 2010

Ms Anne Copeland
Chair
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
PO Box 16085
Collins Street West
MELBOURNE VIC 8007

Dear Ms Copeland

Thank you for your letter of 7 June 2010, in relation to a revised proposal submitted by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board), regarding eligible midwives.

As you know, at our meeting of 31 March 2010, the Ministerial Council decided to defer consideration of the original eligible midwives proposal, pending the outcome of further priority discussions between the Board, and Commonwealth, State and Territory officials, to clarify the range of measures necessary to implement midwife prescribing by 1 November 2010.

Ministers note the revised proposals have been developed by the Board following further consultation, and in collaboration with the Australian College of Midwives and the Department of Health and Ageing, with assistance from the NRAS subcommittee.

In accordance with section 14 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* as enacted by participating jurisdictions (the National Law), the Ministerial Council has decided to approve the Board's proposal for an endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines for eligible midwives to take effect on 1 July 2010. The approval is for:

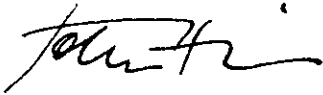
- *Class of health practitioner* – any person registered as a midwife under the National Law whose registration has been endorsed by the Board in accordance with section 94 of the National Law;
- *Type of use* – endorsed as qualified to prescribe a class of scheduled medicines (as per below); and
- *Class of scheduled medicines* – Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines for midwifery practice required for midwifery practice across pregnancy, labour, birth and post natal care, in accordance with the relevant State and Territory legislation.

Further, pursuant to section 12 of the National Law, as enacted by participating jurisdictions, the Ministerial Council has also decided to approve the following registration standards submitted by the Board – with the approval taking effect on 1 July 2010:

- Registration Standard for Eligible Midwives under section 38(2) of the National Law; and
- Registration Standard for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines under section 94 of the National Law.

We trust that the Ministerial Council's decision to approve the Board's eligible midwives proposal as outlined in this letter will assist with the implementation of the proposals in the lead-up to the national scheme's full commencement on 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Hon John Hill
Chair, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council
Minister for Health, South Australia