

7 September 2023

Mr Martin Fletcher  
CEO  
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra)

By email: [nationallawamendments@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:nationallawamendments@ahpra.gov.au)

Dear Mr Fletcher,

**Re: Targeted consultation on how Ahpra and the National Boards propose to use the new power to issue interim prohibition orders**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the targeted consultation on the issuance of interim prohibition orders (IPO).

The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand and is responsible for training, educating, and representing psychiatrists on policy issues. The RANZCP represents more than 8000 members, including more than 5800 qualified psychiatrists.

We appreciate the importance of protecting the public from harm and maintaining public confidence in health services. We also recognise the importance of the health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, of medical practitioners, and how these can be negatively affected even if complaints against the practitioner are unsubstantiated.

The RANZCP understands that the new power to issue IPOs will apply only to a person who is unregistered, including those whose registration has lapsed or been suspended. We concur there is value in issuing an IPO in extraordinary instances where it is necessary to protect the public from serious risk related to an unregistered practitioner. These orders will also capture practitioners who have purposely let their registration lapse rather than face Ahpra consequences.

The draft chapter reads clearly throughout, including the circumstances and thresholds required to issue an IPO. The RANZCP has no request for alteration to the draft chapter and congratulates Ahpra on their work in developing it.

To discuss any of the contents of this submission, please contact Nicola Wright, Executive Manager, Policy, Practice, and Research via [nicola.wright@ranzcp.org](mailto:nicola.wright@ranzcp.org) or on (03) 9236 9103.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Elizabeth Moore  
**President**

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