



Consumers
Health Forum
of Australia

12 April 2011

Ms Christine McDonald
Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

Inquiry into the administration of health practitioner registration by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) welcomes the invitation to provide a submission to the *Inquiry into the administration of health practitioner registration by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency*.

CHF is the national peak body representing the interests of Australian healthcare consumers. CHF works to achieve safe, quality, timely healthcare for all Australians, supported by accessible health information and systems. CHF strongly supported the introduction of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the health professions (NRAS), and has an ongoing interest in the implementation of the Scheme and how it has affected health consumers.

CHF is aware of reports in the mainstream and healthcare media about issues faced by health practitioners in their interactions with AHPRA. At this stage, CHF has received no reports from its individual or organisational members about consumers experiencing any detriment arising from AHPRA's processes and administration. CHF understands that delays in registration have the potential to affect consumer access to Medicare benefits or private health insurance rebates. We have had no reports of access issues to date, but would be extremely concerned if consumer access to rebates and benefits is affected by registration issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Carol Bennett
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER