



Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary, Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Standing Committee on Community Affairs
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7 November 2016

Dear Ms Radcliffe,

Thank you for your letter informing the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) about comments made about DAA at the public hearing of the inquiry into the medical complaints process in Australia. We appreciate the opportunity to provide a brief response to the comments of Dr Gary Fettke.

DAA is the peak body of nutrition and dietetic professionals in Australia. We represent more than 6,200 members. DAA provides strategic leadership in food and nutrition and works to advance the professional interests of our members.

As part of the inquiry, Dr Fettke has stated that DAA members have reported him to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Members of DAA are independent professionals who are free to make a comment or a complaint within their scope of practice, without instruction or permission from DAA.

It was also mentioned that dietetics is not regulated under AHPRA, which is correct. Dietetics is strongly self-regulated and the fact that the profession is not part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) was a government decision. As we understand, dietetics has not been considered for registration under AHPRA due to the low risk our profession poses to patient safety, and also because we have well-established professional standards already in place that match or exceed those set by AHPRA.

DAA is a well-organised, structured and progressive organisation, with an emphasis on excellence of practice, professional standards and good governance. The dietetics profession is self-regulated with recognised high standards at a national level. DAA manages the Accredited Practising Dietitian Program – the credentialing program for dietitians in Australia.

DAA is responsible for accrediting training programs for dietitians in Australia, and assessing the education and skills of overseas-qualified dietitians who seek to work in Australia. DAA makes recommendations on food and nutrition issues and legislation to government, non-government and corporate organisations. We also promote evidence-based nutrition information to the public, health professionals and the media.

Kind regards,

Claire Hewat AdvAPD

CEO, Dietitians Association of Australia