



THE HON KON VATSKALIS MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
minister.vatskalis@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8901 4118
Facsimile: 08 8901 4119

Senator Mitch Fifield
Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration References
Parliament House
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2011, inviting the Northern Territory Government to make a written submission to the Inquiry into the administration of health practitioner registration by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The Northern Territory has experienced some difficulties with the processes for registering health practitioners under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) since its commencement. Most of these appear to be operational issues based on the centralised processes within AHPRA during its settling in period and are common issues across jurisdictions. For example:

- delays in registration and renewal processes;
- inaccuracies and lack of access to data;
- the impact of delays on student employment and intern placements; and
- an overall problem with communication between AHPRA offices and practitioners.

It is acknowledged that there are issues in relation to administration of registration of health practitioners under the National Scheme. However, it is also acknowledged that a considerable amount of work is being implemented by AHPRA to address concerns raised by practitioners and matters currently being reviewed by the Senate Committee.

The Northern Territory appreciates the difficulty of amalgamating a large number of individual registration systems into one large national registration scheme and that for the majority of practitioners, the national system is working well.

It is pleasing to see that practitioner concerns have been heard and AHPRA is actively putting measures in place to achieve continual improvement in operational processes.

Yours sincerely

 KON VATSKALIS

14 APR 2011