Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria

**Level 32, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000**

12 March 2003
OSTE100/ACT-REG/16

The Manager
MRA Review
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Dear Sir or Madam

The Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria would like to make the following submission in relation to your review of the Mutual Recognition Act ("MRA").

The MRA allows a person who is registered in the first State for an occupation to seek registration in the second State for an equivalent occupation. Under the MRA the test for registration is on the equivalency of the occupation not on the equivalency of qualifications that the applicant may hold.

The Board has recently received an application which was made pursuant to the Mutual Recognition Act 1992. The applicant had been registered in Queensland and New South Wales as an osteopath but his qualification is that of chiropractic. Apparently, the applicant obtained registration in Queensland when the registration board of that State was a joint board of chiropractic and osteopathy, and a qualification in one profession qualified a person to be registered by that Board.

The Board is of the view that the professions of osteopathy and chiropractic are separate and distinct in Victoria, as evidenced by separate courses of training and qualifications attained, and separate registration boards for both professions. The Board also considers that a person who has qualifications in chiropractic would not be qualified to practice osteopathy in Victoria.

The Board considers that the MRA should be amended to enable the Board to refuse registration to applicants that do not hold appropriate qualifications.

Yours faithfully



M E STRICKLAND
Registrar

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