

## SUBMISSION

1. Western Australia has only recently become a participating State with respect to the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement and to date, has had not applications for registration under this arrangement. Therefore, the Board is not in a position to make any comments on the effectiveness of this arrangement.
2. In relation to the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), the Board considers that the system is generally working efficiently and effectively and does not require any significant changes.
3. However, the Board is concerned that physiotherapists seeking registration in Western Australia pursuant to the MRA are not required to establish their identity or to have their identity independently confirmed. This deficiency in the process allows for the possibility of identity theft and for the Board to register a person who is not, in reality, qualified as a physiotherapist.
4. The overall objective of the Physiotherapists Act is to protect the public from unqualified and unregistered practitioners and the lack of identity checks for MRA applicants undermines this objective.
5. The Board recommends that the system be amended to require the applicant to provide suitable evidence as to their identity at the time of lodging their application for registration pursuant to the MRA.