

LIA4.10

4 December 2008

Carole Gardner
Administrative Coordinator
Review of Mutual Recognition Schemes
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne VIC 8003
Australia

Dear Ms Gardner

Review of Mutual Recognition Schemes

Thank you for providing the Medical Council of New Zealand with an opportunity to comment on the Productivity Commission's review of mutual recognition schemes. The Council discussed your draft research report at its meeting of 2 and 3 December 2008.

The Council wishes to comment on draft finding 9.1 of the report (page 196). This recommends that the current permanent exemption from the trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement (TTMRA) for medical practitioners should become a special exemption. The Council's view is that such a decision would be premature given the significant level of change which is currently happening within Australian medical regulation. Individual state medical boards are being amalgamated into a single body, and at this stage no detail has been provided about either the nature of the legislation that this body will be working under or the form future regulation of medical practitioners in Australia will take. Council's view is that it is inappropriate to change the status of the current exemption until those changes have been made and the Medical Council of New Zealand has had an opportunity to assess the impact of those changes on the registration of doctors in Australia.

I hope you find these comments useful. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Council's senior policy analyst and researcher, Michael Thorn, on (04) 381 6793 or at mthorn@mcnz.org.nz.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Pigou
CHIEF EXECUTIVE