



20 September 2021

Ms Elizabeth Hart

By email only to [elizmhart@gmail.com](mailto:elizmhart@gmail.com)

Dear Ms Hart

### Your correspondence to Ahpra

I refer to your emails to Ahpra, the Medical Board of Australia and the Agency Management Committee in which you raised concerns about the current national vaccination program and informed consent. I have been requested to respond to your emails.

We appreciate you taking the time to contact us about these issues and apologise for the time required to respond to your enquiry. We are currently experiencing an increase in enquiries which has impacted on the time required to respond to people who contact us.

I hope that the following information is of assistance.

### Role of Ahpra and the National Boards

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) works in partnership with the 15 National Boards to regulate Australia's 800,000+ registered health practitioners. Together, our primary role is to protect the public. We do this by registering practitioners, managing complaints (notifications) and setting standards, codes and guidelines that all registered health practitioners must meet.

### The national COVID-19 vaccination program

With regard to your comments about the national vaccination program, I advise that while Ahpra and the National Boards regulate individual health practitioners, we don't manage the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. The national vaccination program is being managed by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

When providing care in person or sharing information online, registered health practitioners have a professional obligation to only share information that is evidence-based, in line with the best available health advice, and is consistent with public health campaigns such as the Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. These expectations of registered health practitioners are not new and predate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Practitioners have an obligation to obtain informed consent for treatment, including vaccination. Informed consent is a person's voluntary decision about health care that is made with knowledge and understanding of the benefits and risks involved. There is more information about informed consent in each National Board's Code of Conduct or equivalent.

I confirm that practitioners' obligations to provide accurate information and advice about COVID-19 vaccination based on up to date and reputable sources of information about COVID-19 vaccines also apply when obtaining informed consent for COVID-19 vaccination.

We have published information on our webpage [here](#) to explain how the National Boards' existing regulatory frameworks apply in the context of COVID-19 vaccination.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Watson', with a stylized, cursive style.

**Amanda Watson**

National Complaints Manager