Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals

Submission by Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation

1. The Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation ("ASMOF") is a federally-registered trade union, covering some 11,000 salaried medical officers around Australia. Our members are employed predominantly in public health systems. We represent all categories of salaried medical officers, from interns to senior consultants.

2. ASMOF generally supports the current system for accreditation of undergraduate and postgraduate education and training for the health professions.

3. ASMOF supports the accreditation of university medical courses, the postgraduate medical committees and the medical Colleges.

4. We believe that the accreditation requirements for undergraduate training of health professions including medicine should be based on the quality of clinical placements as well as the number, duration and subject area. In ASMOF's view, the quality of clinical placements should be independently assessed, noting that universities do not currently undertake this function.

5. ASMOF supports the current process of seeking input from stakeholders, including ASMOF, during the accreditation of medical Colleges.

6. ASMOF supports having independent, transparent processes for dispute resolution and appeal of decisions relating to accreditation of organisations and individuals.

7. ASMOF believes the cost of accreditation of organisations, which are largely borne directly or indirectly by health professionals, should be minimised by maximising the efficiency of the processes.

8. ASMOF believes that the fees charged for accreditation by the medical Colleges should be reasonable and transparent to those seeking accreditation and especially international medical graduates.