Council of Procedural Specialists (COPS) – Submission

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

Council of Procedural Specialists (COPS) member groups represent procedural specialists practising as Ophthalmologists, Vascular Surgeons, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, Orthopaedic Surgeons, Anaesthetists, Interventional Radiologists and Medical Surgical Assistants.

COPS supports the current role and constitution of the Australian Medical Council (AMC) as an independent accreditor of standards. COPS also supports the role of independent medical colleges as the bodies responsible for specialist education and training. Our medical colleges have a proven record in training world class procedural specialists. It is therefore critically important that this public safety role should not be interfered with or disrupted. The independence of medical colleges is an important public safeguard and quality assurance mechanism.

For this reason COPS cannot support any intervention into the roles and scopes of practice of procedural specialists (i.e. imposed role substitution). Any changes to the way procedural specialists work must be agreed and developed by the profession itself through its own independent colleges and not be imposed by any third party. In this way, the complexity of medical practice and the potential adverse effects of changes are understood and potential hazards avoided.

A foundation principle of medical practice is that competency to undertake medical procedures is based on a comprehensive demonstrated understanding of the whole body system.

The current system and the central role of the AMC are essential elements of keeping Australian medicine safe and effective.

COPS is available to speak to this submission if required.

Stephen Milgate
CEO
Council of Procedural Specialists
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