

JOINT STATEMENT OF COOPERATION

BY

The Hon. Jillian Skinner MP, New South Wales Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research

Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation (NSW)

Australian Medical Association (NSW)

Purpose

Effectively and meaningfully engaging clinicians in the decision-making processes of health organisations significantly contributes to positive patient outcomes. To that end, we are committed to ways of working in which the effective and meaningful engagement of medical practitioners is a cornerstone of decision-making to deliver patient centred care within the NSW public health system.

Continuing Commitment

The Minister is committed to continuing devolution, localism, transparency and accountability as the basis for an effective, patient-centred public health care system. In particular the Minister has a commitment to continuing the following initiatives:

- Embedding of the CORE values of collaboration, openness, respect and empowerment across NSW Health.
- One or more executive clinical directors being appointed in each Local Health District and Specialty Network to advise on medical matters and improve links between management and medical clinicians.
- Local doctors as members of District and Network boards.
- a co-ordinated process through Medical Staff Councils for providing nominations for District board membership to the Minister of Health.
- Opportunities for Medical Staff Council representatives to attend District Board meetings as observers.
- The strengthening of clinical councils and the inclusion of the Medical Staff Council Chair on LHD and facility clinical councils.
- Supporting participation of doctors-in-training on facility clinical councils.

Further work

Surveying senior medical staff

- The ASMOF (NSW) and AMA (NSW) intend to conduct regular surveys of their senior medical members to gauge their level of engagement in the public health system.

- The Ministry has worked with these organisations to map relevant questions from their survey to its own staff “Your Say” survey in 2015 to provide greater granularity around senior medical staff engagement as indicated by the engagement index developed for the Your Say survey.
- AMA (NSW) and ASMOF are committed to encouraging participation of their senior doctor members in the next Your Say survey with the aim of maximising senior doctor participation rates in that survey.
- The Minister supports results from the Your Say survey (or any future staff survey for or on behalf of NSW Health), and results from AMA/ASMOF surveys relating to questions about the engagement of senior medical clinicians, which have been agreed with the Ministry of Health:
 - (i) being considered as part of understanding and assessing performance under the annual District/Network service agreements;
 - (ii) being considered as part of understanding and assessing the performance of District/Network senior executive management teams, other relevant managers and senior medical staff,

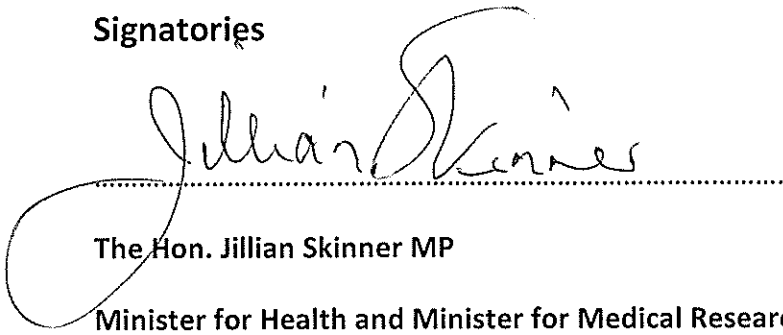
in establishing meaningful clinician participation and involvement in local decision-making to deliver patient-centred care.

(Note: there needs to be sufficient response rates from senior doctors to make reasonable analysis possible at a District/Network level).

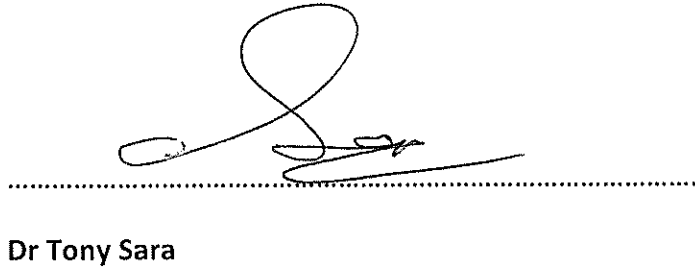
Model By-laws

- The Minister is committed to continuing the engagement initiatives outlined under “Continuing Commitments”. It is recognised that some of these initiatives are currently set out in the Model By-Laws, and agreed that these are important determinants as to the level of engagement with medical practitioners at the District and Network level.
- The current Review of the Model By-Laws retains a commitment to supporting effective clinician engagement at the local level, and to this end:
 - (i) the Ministry of Health will consult closely with the AMA and ASMOF in the Review, to ensure revisions being considered are consistent with the principles of maximising local, frontline engagement;
 - (ii) The AMA and ASMOF will provide constructive input into the process of revision of the Model By-Laws.

Signatories

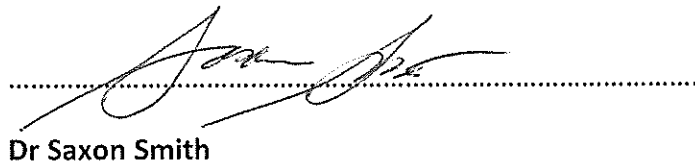

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The Hon. Jilian Skinner MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research

Date: 17. 2. 15


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Dr Tony Sara

Date: 17/2/15

President, Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation (NSW)


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Dr Saxon Smith

Date: 17/2/2015

President, Australian Medical Association (NSW)