



MEDIA RELEASE

AMC Calls for Public Submissions on Cosmetic Medical Practice Recognition

2 April 2009

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is calling for public submissions on a bid to have cosmetic medical practice recognised as a medical specialty in Australia.

The AMC has launched its specialty recognition assessment process in response to an application by the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery for the recognition of cosmetic medical practice as a medical specialty.

Cosmetic medical practice is not currently recognised as a medical specialty in Australia.

The College has applied to have its specialist education and training programs recognised as a standard for a particular area of practice.

Organisations can also seek recognition of a medical specialty, so it can be listed on Schedule 4 of the *Health Insurance Regulations 1975* (which relates to Medicare rebates for patients), but in this case, the College has not sought recognition for this purpose.

Assessment Process - Background

The AMC is an independent, standards-based agency responsible for advising the government on which medical specialties should be recognised in Australia.

In assessing the recognition of medical specialties, the AMC manages a linked, two-stage evidence-based process. Recognition as a specialty is conditional on the successful completion of both stages of the process.

During the first stage of the assessment, the AMC assesses the case for recognition of a medical specialty against four recognition criteria that relate to:

1. the distinct and legitimate nature of the medical discipline
2. quality and safety
3. standards of medical practice, and
4. the wise use of resources.

At the end of Stage 1, the AMC will provide confidential advice to the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing on whether the application has satisfied the four recognition criteria. The Minister may accept or decline this advice from the AMC and makes the final decision to recognise a field of practice as a medical specialty. If the Minister decides there is a case for recognition, the application proceeds to Stage 2 when the standards of specialist education, training programs and continuing professional development programs available for the medical specialty are assessed.

Organisations with training programs in that specialty may apply for the AMC to accredit their training programs.

The application from the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery for the recognition of cosmetic medical practice as a specialty is in the first stage of the process.

Public submissions

The AMC welcomes submissions from the public on the College's application for recognition.

Submissions can be short. Organisations and individuals can limit their responses to a particular criterion or sub-criteria. Only submissions that address the criteria and sub-criteria will be considered. The AMC asks for submissions to be provided electronically.

For more information about the recognition process, go to the AMC website at www.amc.org.au.

The deadline for submissions is 5pm AEST 4 June 2009. The submissions process generally takes two months.

Further information, please call (02) 6270-7878

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