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PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL PO BOX 4810 KINGSTON ACT 2604 AUSTRALIA

10 August 2009

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is pleased to release the final version of *Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia*, which has been endorsed by the AMC Directors. You can access the Code at www.goodmedicalpractice.org.au

The AMC believes this Code sets out the principles that characterise good medical practice and makes explicit the standards of ethical and professional conduct expected of doctors by their professional peers and the community.

The AMC developed this Code on behalf of the state and territory medical boards. The Code complements the Australian Medical Association *Code of Ethics* and is aligned with its values, and is also consistent with the *Declaration of Geneva* and the *International Code of Medical Ethics*, issued by the World Medical Association.

Thank-you for participating in the comprehensive consultation process that shaped the development of the Code. The consultation process was supported financially by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and strengthened by a partnership between the AMC and the Consumers Health Forum of Australia.

The AMC Directors believe the Code now represents a fair consideration of all feedback provided through the consultation process. The AMC will recommend the Code to the Medical Board of Australia when it is established and has recommended it to the existing state and territory medical boards. Depending on their existing legislation, medical boards may adopt the Code ahead of the introduction of national registration to define clear, nationally consistent standards of medical practice. Some boards may choose to endorse the Code in principle rather than adopt it to replace their existing codes. Each board will need to determine its own course of action.

The AMC expects that the national board will review the Code in the light of developing national legislation to ensure that there is no inconsistency between the Code and the legislation. AMC Directors consider the Code will benefit from a regular three to five year review cycle. Steps will also need to be taken to ensure the effective communication of the Code to the profession and the community.

With thanks again for your participation in the consultation process.

Professor Richard Smallwood
President
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