21 November 2022

Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: ███████████████████████

Subject: Queensland Health contractual restrictions

Dear Minister D'Ath

During our meeting on 20 October 2022, AMA Queensland committed to working with Queensland Health to address the current medical workforce challenges. Most recently our members have expressed concerns that red tape linked to Queensland Health employment is significantly exacerbating the current medical workforce shortage in our state.

The priority issues identified by AMA Queensland are:

1. the lack of state-wide credentialing for doctors across Queensland Health limits the employment of doctors between hospitals unless credentialed for both locations; and
2. the prohibition on Queensland Health doctors taking locum positions in Queensland. Though we understand the original reason behind such a policy, the current practice is now forcing doctors on leave or with part-time capacity to locum interstate.

Both these limitations create barriers to flexible workforce solutions, particularly in rural and remote areas. They are also creating perverse outcomes, with Queensland doctors advising they are taking locum and/or part-time positions in New South Wales instead of rural Queensland hospitals as a direct result of current policy.

As per our undertaking at our last meeting, we are focused on providing advice that leads to medical workforce solutions. Accordingly, we urge Queensland Health to act urgently to remove these barriers and ensure equitable access to health services for all Queenslanders.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Dr Maria Boulton
President
AMA Queensland

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland

cc: Mr Shaun Drummond, Director-General, Queensland Health via email:
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cc: Prof Keith McNeil, Chief Medical Officer, Queensland Health via email:
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Leading Queensland Doctors, Creating Better Health