

21 December 2023

Dr Maria Boulton
President and
Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland
P O Box 123
RED HILL QLD 4059

By email: amaq@amaq.com.au

Dear Dr Boulton and Dr Dale

Thank you for your letter dated 5 December regarding recommendations from the AMA Queensland Council for improved support for practitioners subject to regulatory processes.

I note the concerns raised by the Council and the members on the issues of practitioner distress following notifications and the alarming figures of practitioner suicide documented in the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) recent report.

I advise I am currently having discussions with Ahpra on this topic and refer to their letter to you on 20 December and will be happy to discuss further with you following the outcomes of these discussions. I will request that Ms Heather Edwards, Ahpra's State Manager Queensland, take the lead in making arrangements for this meeting. I note that some of your requests are outside the scope or resources of the Office of the Health Ombudsman, such as the creation of a practitioner portal for the tracking of matters, but we would be happy to discuss ways in which we can respond to the concerns that you have raised.

Yours sincerely



Dr Lynne Coulson Barr OAM
Health Ombudsman

cc Heather Edwards, State Manager Queensland, Ahpra