



the peak body and leading voice
for sonographers

Friday, 16 October 2020

Dr John Wakefield,
Director-General,
Queensland Health
C/o Clinical Placements Strategic Review
Workforce Strategy Branch
GPO Box 48
Brisbane QLD 4001

By email to CPRReview2020@health.qld.gov.au

Dear Dr Wakefield,

Thank you for contacting me to consider and provide a response to the Queensland Health *Clinical Placements Strategic Review 2020 Discussion Paper*.

Having considered the Discussion Paper in consultation with the Sonographer Policy and Advisory Committee, the Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) is pleased to recognise the positive work being progressed by Queensland Health to review the delivery of the student clinical placements program and shape the direction of clinical placements in Queensland.

The operation of the clinical placements program across Queensland Health and Hospital Services (HHS) is an essential support in the local provision of health professional pre-entry clinical education and training. The elements presented in the paper will support the delivery of quality clinical training in public health services. Such as Student Placement Deeds with education providers; Service Agreements with each HHS; Student Deed Poll; and centralised data collection. Many of these build on the good work of the past and propose introducing system changes, such as centralised data collection, to support planning and resourcing to continue to deliver clinical placements.

As Queensland Health sets the future direction of the student clinical placements program the ASA requests that the strategy and scope of the program delivery be expanded to include:

- Recognition that, for some health professions, the tuition fees for the education program do not include the expectation that the course will provide clinical training within the healthcare course. For example, postgraduate sonographer education – which accounts for the majority of qualifying sonographers in Australia – requires students to identify and secure their own clinical education placement. **The ASA recommends Queensland Health to include in the program some provision to supply clinical training to students that have to secure their own clinical training placements.**
- For several health professions, private health service providers have a significant and sometimes larger role than the HHS's in providing pre-entry clinical training placements. **The ASA recommends that Queensland Health develop strong connections with private health service providers and support private health service providers to provide student clinical training placements.**

The ASA would be delighted to support Queensland Health to incorporate these changes into the program. If you would like any additional information on these recommendations or assistance with this



work, please contact the ASA Policy & Advocacy Advisor, James Brooks-Dowsett, by phone on +61 406 998 429 or email to policy@sonographers.org, or contact me directly.

We look forward to continuing to work Queensland Health to ensure students have access to quality and reliable pre-entry clinical education and training in the state.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodie Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, trailing flourish at the end.

Jodie Long
Chief Executive Officer
The Australasian Sonographers Association