

PROPOSED AUTHORISED HEALTH PRACTITIONER APPOINTMENT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

1. PRINCIPLES

These seem generally reasonable although it would be appropriate to introduce a clause indicating the capacity and desirability of continuously improving the framework with the advent of further important factors in the future. There should also be encouragement for feedback to SIRA by Authorised Health Practitioners to facilitate progressive improvement.

2. SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

a. The principle of selection is reasonable although there is a lack of transparency. It would be appropriate for applicants to know who reviews their application and the appropriate qualifications of those persons. It would also be appropriate for at least one Medical Practitioner to be on this Selection Board.

b. Applicants who are unsuccessful are advised by e-mail. This is very “curt” and does not seem appropriate for such a prestigious and important an organisation such as SIRA. There should be full (very full and transparent) reasoning given to the unsuccessful applicant. More than just the opportunity for review by somebody else who was not on the original Selection Panel, there should be opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with a senior officer of SIRA.

3. REMOVAL OF AUTHORISED HEALTH PRACTITIONER’S APPOINTMENT

a. Regulation 7.148 advises that SIRA can pursue this function “at any time”.

b. If this procedure is undertaken, it would be most appropriate that very full reasons are given to the associated Authorised Health Practitioner and that there is an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with a senior officer of SIRA.

4. COLLEGIATE FUNCTIONING

a. This already exists with the Workers Compensation Commission. A lot of good clinical information and experience can be “cross fertilised” with clinical meetings under the overall guidance of SIRA.

b. Peer group review of reports could also form part of this provided the report author has the full opportunity of a right of reply.

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