



Medical Council
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

2017-2019

STRATEGIC PLAN

MEDICAL COUNCIL OF NSW

Strategic Plan 2017-2019

OUR VISION

We deliver leadership in medical regulation by upholding high standards in the medical profession and public trust by using right touch regulation to promote high standards of patient care in NSW.

OUR PURPOSE

To protect the health and safety of the NSW public by ensuring doctors and medical students are fit to practise.

OUR VALUES

- Collaboration
- Openness
- Respect
- Empowerment

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Our paramount consideration is the protection of the public's health and safety.
- We practise evidence based decision-making reflecting the principles of procedural fairness.
- We operate as a right touch regulator, ensuring efficient and proportionate regulation.
- We have a collaborative and constructive approach to working with stakeholders.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

As community expectations of health care providers increase, we will be challenged by ever-increasing volume of complaints. Public scrutiny of decisions and processes will increase, and the Council will be expected to fulfil expectations from diverse stakeholders including government, the academic sector, the medical profession, individual notifiers, other regulators as well as the broader public.

Cases will continue to be complex. Changes in traditional medical models, such as an increase in corporatised medicine and the advent of new technologies, will drive the patterns and the nature of complaints. There will continue to be an important role for the Medical Council in protecting the public by maintaining high professional standards in the midst of these changes.

High quality decision-making is the core function of the Council.

OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

Quality decision-making

To improve our decision-making processes and capacity to deliver consistent, timely, evidence based and transparent decisions with a paramount concern for safe medical practice. Our decisions will be fair and have regard to the public interest.

'We strive to make consistent and timely decisions based on clear policy and program objectives and relevant precedents.'

Medical Council Strategy Day November 2016

High quality decision-making by the Council and its decision-making bodies is aimed at maintaining the confidence of the public in the medical profession. It aims to strike a balance between the risk of a variety of harms, to the public, to individual patients, to the reputation of the medical profession and the health and wellbeing of the individual practitioner.

2017-2019 OUR SIX PRIORITIES

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 1:

Ensure appropriate knowledge and skills in Council and hearing members.

We will:

- identify competencies for hearing members
- introduce a regular training program for hearing and Council members
- establish online modular training for Council and hearing members with Medical Council specific content and case studies
- consistently evaluate the effectiveness of training

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 2:

Develop and publicise all current Council policies to guide our decision makers.

We will:

- review and rationalise all current Council policies and guidelines
- clearly distinguish policies which require compliance from those which are advisory
- update our website, Boardbooks and other resource to improve stakeholder access to policies
- maintain currency of all Council policies

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 3:

Prioritise decision-making by streamlining agendas.

We will:

- place policy matters first on agendas
- rationalise meeting papers to include only those relevant to the decision
- establish a consistent format for meeting papers
- prioritise items for discussion including use of starred items
- use videoconferencing where appropriate

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 4:

Increase delegation of straightforward matters.

We will:

- establish a hierarchy of decision types, prioritising decisions for Council
- delegate decisions to Council members or to the Secretariat where possible or appropriate
- revise delegations to reduce workloads of Council members

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 5:

Upgrade and plan stakeholder engagement. Improve consumer communications, including plain English correspondence and regular updates to complainants, notifiers and practitioners.

We will:

- undertake a stakeholder needs analysis
- increase the Council's profile with professional groups, university medical schools, learned colleges and hospitals (LHDs) through proactive engagement and contribution to their education programs
- upgrade our website explaining the regulatory system and role of the Council

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 6:

Develop and refine our research strategy to improve the evidence base for Council decision-making and regulatory action.

We will:

- finalise strategic priorities for research 2017-2019
- invest in research which improves the evidence base for medical regulation

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Strategic Plan or to make an enquiry, contact:

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