



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 1908-12 tabled in Parliament on 19 June 2012, in relation to the credentials of Dr Joice to work at Proserpine Hospital.

Queensland Health has a well-defined policy for credentialing and defining the scope of clinical practice for all doctors providing clinical services. This is a core policy to minimise risk to patients by ensuring each doctor has the right skills, qualifications and experience, matched to the support services available at each hospital for the clinical services to be provided. Queensland Health's credentialing policy is consistent with national standards set by the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care, and local standards set by the Health Quality and Complaints Commission.

Every doctor's scope of clinical practice is reviewed at least every 3 years or more frequently if circumstances change or unexpected events occur to warrant an unscheduled review. The purpose of regular review is to ensure that the doctor's clinical knowledge and competence is up-to-date and that there are appropriate support services available at their hospital for the clinical services to be provided at that time. Upon review a credentialing committee may recommend limiting a doctor's scope of clinical practice where that is considered necessary for the ongoing assurance of patient safety.

The matter of Dr Joice's credentials is currently subject to an appeal process by a committee of senior medical practitioners, independent of the Mackay Health Service District, to consider the appropriate scope of clinical practice for Dr Joice's work at Proserpine Hospital. If Dr Joice is dissatisfied with the decision of that appeal committee, he has further rights to seek judicial review by the Supreme Court of Queensland.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Minister for Health

11 JUL 2012