

16 December 2022

Mr Shaun Drummond
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Subject: Response re UTIPP-Q and NQ Pilot concerns

Dear Mr Drummond

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2022 regarding our correspondence of 3 and 21 November 2022.

We note your statement that the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (the 'Pilot') 'is not a stand-alone solution to address workforce issues'. AMA Queensland's overriding concern has always been the threat to patient safety. We reject that it presents a credible solution to Queensland's health workforce crisis. In fact, it is likely to exacerbate it by increasing emergency department and general practice presentations through patient harm and eventually reducing GP presence in communities of need.

The letter also states that AMA Queensland was part of the Pilot's Steering Reference Group and provided feedback on its scope. This is incorrect and participation was limited to two meetings at which time it became clear that we could not support the Pilot. Indeed, AMA Queensland has not been involved in the Pilot's governance in any way.

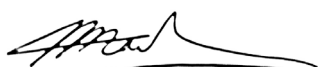
We also note the statement that the Pilot's guideline and protocols will be 'published and made available to health professionals in North Queensland'. These materials must be made available to all Queenslanders for transparency and accountability.

We are likewise concerned by the statement that Queensland Health will investigate complaints about the Pilot, 'however, as with any complaint... sufficient information must be provided'. This implies Queensland Health intends to limit complaint investigations by relying on a lack of 'sufficient information'. AMA Queensland calls on Queensland Health to ensure all complaints can be thoroughly investigated by designing the Pilot to capture all necessary information.

Whilst the letter references your correspondence of 11 October 2022, neither letter addressed the specific concerns outlined by AMA Queensland in our correspondence of 3 and 21 November 2022. We will seek our Council's input to determine whether any AMA Queensland members are available for the Pilot panels, however, given the absence of a comprehensive response to our concerns this is likely to be difficult.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely



Dr Maria Boulton
President
AMA Queensland



Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland