

10 August 2023

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Subject: North Queensland Pilot quality and safety framework workshop

Dear Catherine

Thank you for your letter dated 3 August 2023 providing further information about the requirements for participation in the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (the 'NQ Pilot') quality and safety framework workshop scheduled for 23 August 2023.

We note your statement that confidentiality is required 'due to the sensitive nature of this initiative'. AMA Queensland has consistently raised the absence of clear justification for the secrecy surrounding both the NQ Pilot and its predecessor, the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot – Queensland (the 'UTIPP-Q'). This is particularly concerning given both programs are not evidence-based but rather are the result of a 2020 election commitment:

to work with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and other stakeholders to design and implement a trial of pharmacists practicing to their full scope in North Queensland.

Doctors continue to raise concerns about the serious implications for patient safety under the NQ Pilot, as detailed in multiple letters and other correspondence to the Minister and Queensland Health by both AMA Queensland and our Councillor, Dr Stephanie Dawson-Smith. To date, we have not received a response from the Government that directly addresses those concerns.

As previously advised, the AMA Queensland Council decided at its 28 July 2023 meeting that since these issues remain outstanding and Queensland Health was requiring all participants to sign a confidentiality agreement, an AMA Queensland representative could not be nominated for participation in the upcoming workshop.

Whilst your recent letter indicates a written confidentiality agreement will no longer be required, it nonetheless requests adherence to confidentiality 'in the spirit of good faith'. Given this does not materially change the requirements, AMA Queensland cannot accept the invitation.

In closing, AMA Queensland is committed to working with Queensland Health on evidence-based, collaborative models of care that support professions working at the top of their scope of practice to improve patient care, access and, ultimately, safety.

Yours sincerely



Dr Maria Boulton
President
AMA Queensland



Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland