



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

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SCANNED

Australian Commission

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on Safety and Quality
in Health Care

6 March 2008

Professor Chris Baggoley
Chief Executive
Australian Commission
on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
GPO Box 5480
SYDNEY NSW 2001

*Refer to Nicola Dunbar
BGB 7/3/08*

Dear Professor Baggoley

Draft National Patient Charter of Rights

Thank you for your letter dated 22 January 2008 and for the opportunity to comment on the draft National Patient Charter of Rights.

The College supports the concept of a Charter of Patient Rights and the domains of the Charter have significant alignment with the domains of our Professional Qualities Curriculum.

We would like to make the suggestion of including the notion of patient responsibilities in the Charter. This is in line with a significant evidence base that health care has to be a two-way street. Therefore the domains of respect, safety, participation and communication are areas where both the consumers of health care and the providers of health care are enjoined in a partnership. In fact, health care providers are not the sole determinants of good communication, participation and respectful two way relationships.

The College would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further and we congratulate you on this initiative.

Yours sincerely

Dr Mel Miller
Chief Executive Officer