



29 March, 2007

Associate Professor Christine Kilpatrick
The Victorian Quality Council
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Christine,

Re: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's "National Safety and Quality Accreditation Standards Discussion paper"

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to a response to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's "National Safety and Quality Accreditation Standards Discussion paper".

The Royal Children's Hospital supports the proposals for reform as noted in the discussion paper. We believe that the implementation of the proposed reform strategies will benefit our patients and their families and supports the provision of Family Centred Care, a key philosophy of The RCH.

The proposed reform strategies reflect the desire for open, honest and transparent discussion and debate on changes required to ensure Australian accreditation processes are relevant and appropriate now and into the future. In particular the desire to improve the transparency of accreditation decision making process, the resource implications, inter and intra-surveyor reliability and the standardisation of accreditation language and definition are areas that would benefit from robust debate and discussion lead by commission.

In addition, The RCH would support the avoidance of duplication where two separate Accreditation agencies survey the same unit/department, and also any initiative that simplifies the current accreditation process.

The Royal Children's Hospital would be willing to participate in any future developments or discussions to assist in providing practical and achievable outcomes that will benefit Australian health care now and into the future.

With kind regards,

Dr Tony Cull
Chief Executive Officer
The Royal Children's Hospital

Direct telephone: 9345 4708
Email: tony.cull@rch.org.au