

From: [Miriam Norman](#)
To: [Our Healthcare Future](#)
Subject: Support regulation of clinical physiologists working in the fields of Cardiac, Neuro, Respiratory and Sleep science
Date: Tuesday, 12 July 2022 12:24:03 AM

To whom it may concern,

I recommend that Tasmania healthcare governance support regulation of Clinical Physiologists working in the fields of Cardiac, Neuro, Respiratory and Sleep science.

The Australian Council for Clinical Physiologists (the ACCP - <https://theaccp.org.au/>) is a voluntary accreditation body modelled after similar organisations in New Zealand and the UK (see <http://www.cprb.org.nz/> and <https://www.rccp.co.uk/> respectively). It works to recognise, set and maintain appropriate professional standards for clinical physiologists working in Australia, in the areas of:

- Cardiology*
- Neurophysiology,
- Sleep Medicine and
- Respiratory Science.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) does not currently recognise or regulate these groups, and there is potential for adverse outcomes directly resulting from insufficiently skilled staff. For example, incorrect programming of pacemakers and defibrillators directly threatens patient safety and quality of life, but Cardiac Physiologists who perform this programming are not currently required to be qualified or registered. Until Healthcare governance systems *require* registration, there is little incentive for individual physiologists to obtain appropriate qualifications, become registered, and comply with necessary continual professional development (CPD) standards. Requiring ACCP registration would therefore drive up professional standards and improve overall patient safety.

Most healthcare professions require formal registration to practice, and it should be no different for the above Clinical Physiology professions.

*Cardiac Physiologists work in 5 clinical professional modalities (ECG, Cath Lab, Cardiac Devices, Echo and Electrophysiology). Only Echo Physiologists (Cardiac Sonographers) currently require registration to practice (through the Australian Sonographers Accreditation Registry ASAR).
Note that Cardiac Physiologists are distinct from Exercise Physiologists, and are not represented by the previous ESSA submission (see previous correspondence from Professionals in Cardiac Sciences Australia on this point).

If a Clinical Physiologist is accredited through the ACCP then there is a demonstrated commitment to regulated training pathways, and ongoing CPD requirements. There is also a national reporting pathway to appropriately address any significant problems with workplace performance or professional conduct. I strongly recommend that Clinical Physiologists practicing in Tasmania are encouraged to obtain and maintain accreditation through the ACCP to better meet the needs and expectations of employers and the overall Tasmanian health care system.

Regards,

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