



Medical Board of Queensland

ABN: 35 789 357 327

MEDIA STATEMENT

7 March 2008

Court supports Medical Board move for deregistration

The Court of Appeal today upheld the Medical Board of Queensland's appeal for permanent deregistration of a Brisbane general practitioner.

In making its decision today, the Court of Appeal quashed the earlier decision by the Health Practitioners Tribunal to cancel the doctor's registration for five years and ordered that he be permanently deregistered, never to be reinstated.

Last year, the Medical Board brought disciplinary proceedings in the Health Practitioners Tribunal against the doctor on the basis of his conviction on indictable offences in both Queensland and in the ACT. These offences included indecent treatment of a child and incest.

On 18 June last year, the matter was heard in the Tribunal, which ordered that the doctor's registration be cancelled for a period of five years. It was also ordered that his name be suppressed to protect the identities of the victims of his crimes.

Chair of the Medical Board, Dr Mary Cohn, said it was in the public interest that the Board lodge an appeal against the Tribunal's decision.

'In light of the nature of the criminal offences, combined with this person's history of sexual misconduct with his patients, an appeal against the Tribunal's decision was necessary,' Dr Cohn said.

'We believe this doctor should not be free to practise in the future and welcome the decision handed down by the Court today,' she said.

The doctor in question had his registration suspended on two earlier occasions, for nine months in 1997 and for two years in 2001. Each of these suspensions related to his sexual involvement with an adult patient.

Media Contact: Bronwyn Fletcher, Tel: 07 3405 4007.