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MEDIA STATEMENT 2007 - 08 ANNUAL REPORT

Chair of the Medical Board of Queensland, Dr Mary Cohn, today released the Board's 2007-08 annual report which details how the Board helps protect the public while supporting Queensland's doctors.

Dr Cohn said the number of doctors registered in Queensland jumped to almost 17,000 last year.

"This included registering 1,590 new international medical graduates to fill vital roles in 'area-of-need' hospitals and communities across Queensland," Dr Cohn said.

"The number of new doctors from Queensland universities also rose steadily last year and the Board expects to register more than 420 new graduates in December this year.

"The increasing number of registrants in Queensland requires the Board to continue to focus on ensuring patient safety and upholding the standards of practice for Queensland doctors."

In 2007-08 the Board succeeded in having the registration of two doctors cancelled, five doctors suspended and imposing disciplinary conditions on seven others.

In addition, almost 40 doctors were disciplined at Board level rather than through the Health Practitioners Tribunal.

"We take very seriously our role in ensuring that Queensland doctors provide health care in a professional, safe and competent way," Dr Cohn said.

"We assess each and every complaint about the professional conduct of Queensland doctors thoroughly before deciding whether to commence a full investigation.

"Our successes in the tribunal and other disciplinary matters clearly demonstrate that the Board will not tolerate any unsatisfactory professional conduct from Queensland doctors."

The Board also played a lead role on the Joint Medical Boards Advisory Committee (JMBAC), Council of Australian Governments' IMG Technical Committee and the Australian Medical Council as these bodies move to strengthen registration and accreditation of medical professionals.

The Board sees its membership of these committees as an opportunity to achieve best practice in medical regulation and believe the Queensland public and our doctors will benefit from a nationally consistent approach.

The Board's 2007-08 annual report is available online at www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au

Media Contact: Craig Brown 3405 4008