

## THE PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The following '**Statement on Clinical Supervision**' has been developed so that all supervising physiotherapists are aware of their obligations when employing physiotherapists with Limited Registration. Clinical Supervision is a personal undertaking by the supervising physiotherapist. It is not an undertaking by the physiotherapy practice or employer.

The supervising physiotherapist must sign a "Undertaking" with the Physiotherapy Board stating their willingness to supervise as outlined in the Board's "Statement on Clinical Supervision".

The supervising physiotherapist should note too, that the Board requires them to advise it in writing, within two weeks of commencement of employment of a physiotherapist with Limited Registration of the process of assessment of supervision requirements and of the resulting supervision arrangements.

### STATEMENT ON CLINICAL SUPERVISION

Clinical supervision is a process that ensures quality of patient care. Appropriate supervision enables a physiotherapist to make the best of his or her skills and improve his or her abilities. The nature and extent of supervision is dependent on the individual physiotherapist's knowledge and experience.

The amount of input required by a supervisor of a physiotherapist with Limited Registration must be determined by the supervisor as the processes to determine eligibility for full registration and therefore achievement of a base level of competence have yet to be undertaken. The supervisor should undertake a period of assessment through strategies such as observation or mock exams and then consult with the individual about the ongoing supervision arrangements required to ensure adequate patient care. **The absolute minimum expectation of adequate supervision is a weekly meeting with access to a supervisor's input during working hours with the supervisor in such geographical proximity as to provide such input. (Geographical proximity is deemed to be the ability to attend the work site at no more than 3 hours notice, if needed.) A greater level of supervision may well be required due to individual differences in skill level.**

Employing a physiotherapist with Limited Registration as a locum in place of a sole practising physiotherapist would not allow for the appropriate level of access to supervision.

Supervisors are required to advise the Physiotherapy Board of South Australia in writing, within two weeks of commencement of employment of a physiotherapist with Limited Registration, of the process of assessment and the resulting supervision arrangements.