Australia remains committed to the principles of the Code. It has a highly skilled and motivated health care workforce and continues to implement policies to attract, train and retain increased numbers of health professionals, with the ultimate goal of achieving self-sufficiency.

The Australian Government has made extensive investment in health workforce reform, including a substantial investment in expanding training opportunities for health students in Australia. The Department of Health is currently implementing a number of health workforce initiatives, including a significant increase in support for medical internships and increased funding for nursing and allied health scholarships, with an emphasis on providing more services in regional, rural and remote areas.

In addition, Australia has developed a range of tools and publications to assist with health workforce planning, including *Health Workforce 2025 – Doctors, Nurses and Midwives* Volumes 1 and 2 (released April 2012), *Health Workforce 2025 – Medical Specialties* – Volume 3 (November 2012).

The following four key health workforce reports were recently released by the Government in December 2014:

- *Australia’s Future Health Workforce: Doctors* (presents national workforce projections for doctors to 2030 and is an update of the projections published in 2012 and based on revised data).
- *Australia’s Future Health Workforce: Oral health* (presents the first long term workforce projections published on the oral health professions including dentists, oral health practitioners (dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists) and dental prosthodontists).
- The *Nursing Workforce Sustainability, Improving Nurse Retention and Productivity* report.

The recommendations contained in all of the reports will be the subject of further consideration to develop implementation strategies.

Australia has significantly boosted its numbers of domestically trained health professionals since adopting the Code in 2010. For example, between 2010 to 2012, there was a 22.9 percent increase in the number of domestic medical students completing courses leading to provisional registration. Similarly, between 2010 to 2013, there was a 21.1 percent increase in domestic nursing students who completed courses for initial registration as nurses or midwives.

Note that Australia continues to attract highly skilled health care professionals due to being a choice destination for its world class health system and non-discriminatory work practices.

Australia welcomes the WHO’s proposed approach to review the relevance and effectiveness of the Code, and support the WHO’s continued efforts to monitor the implementation of the Code at global, regional and country levels.