

Comissão Parlamentar de Trabalho e Segurança Social, Assembleia da República
Palácio de São Bento
Lisboa - Portugal

18 March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to write on behalf of Manual Concepts and the School of Physiotherapy at Curtin University in support of the physiotherapists of Portugal's application for autonomy.

Having worked closely with physiotherapists in Portugal for many years, and educated many more on physiotherapy postgraduate education courses in Portugal, I am aware of the knowledge base of physiotherapists in Portugal and feel qualified to confidently support autonomy for Portuguese physiotherapists. These physiotherapists are well qualified to assess and treat the health needs of the individual, whilst screening for those who need further specialised medical treatment beyond their scope of practice.

Manual Concepts has been teaching postgraduate physiotherapists advanced levels of practice to enable them to confidently assess and treat suitable patients without the need for prior assessment by a medical doctor. In Australia we have had autonomy to practice independently since 1973. Similarly many other countries including New Zealand, the UK, Ireland, and Canada also have such autonomy, and have robust systems overseen by regulatory and professional bodies, to not only ensure the competency of the practitioner but also the safety of the public. I am sure autonomy given to Portuguese physiotherapists will progress rather than stifle the national health goals.

Yours faithfully

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