

~~In exercising any of the new powers, the director of mental health will still be bound by the stringent protections already in the Mental Health Act, which include that the director is required to ensure the protection of involuntary patients' rights as far as reasonably practicable; and any adverse impact on a person's rights or liberties must be the minimum necessary and there must be no less restrictive means available. I would also like to stress that these amendments will only impact on patients who are forensic, classified or section 273(1) (b) order patients and will have no impact on other involuntary patients being cared for in the mental health system.~~

~~The intention of these amendments is not to interfere with the treatment of patients with a mental illness, but rather to add an extra set of safeguards to make sure that the use of limited community treatment supports patient care without placing the community at risk. The principles of the Mental Health Act seek to find a balance between the need to provide a safe and effective environment for the treatment of involuntary patients and their reintegration into the community, and the safety and rights of others. These amendments attempt to assist that balance. I commend the bill to the House.~~

### **First Reading**



~~**Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (2.46 pm): I move—  
That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

~~Bill read a first time.~~

### **Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee**

~~**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.~~

## **HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**



**Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (2.46 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Child Protection Act 1999, the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Forensic Disability Act 2011, the Health Act 1937, the Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999, the Health Practitioners (Special Events Exception) Act 1998, the Health Quality and Complaints Commission Act 2006, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Integrity Act 2009, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Service Act 2008, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Regulation 2009, the Radiation Safety Act 1999 and the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009, for particular purposes and to repeal the Dental Technicians Registration Act 2001, the Health Practitioner Registration Boards (Administration) Act 1999 and Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Health Practitioner Registration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

*Tabled paper:* Health Practitioner Registration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

Dental technology and speech pathology are the only remaining professions registered under the original Queensland health practitioner registration scheme. All other health professions previously registered in Queensland have now transitioned to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the health professions. These two professions have not met the criteria for national registration under the national scheme and Queensland is the only state to register them. Aside from a short time in the Northern Territory, no other Australian jurisdiction has registered speech pathologists. Jurisdictions that registered dental technicians abolished registration by 1 July 2010, after it was determined that this profession would not be transitioning to the national scheme.

When considering these professions for national registration, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council deemed dental technicians and speech pathologists to have either a very low or no risk to the public and the cost of regulation therefore outweighed any possible benefits to the public. Continued registration of these professions in Queensland is therefore inconsistent with the principles of national registration and is out of step with other Australian jurisdictions.

The scheme also adds a regulatory burden to dental technicians and speech pathologists, who are required to pay for registration to practise their profession in Queensland. In other states and territories, these professionals may practise without these regulatory costs. Abolishing registration will

improve workforce mobility by removing the need for interstate dental technicians and speech pathologists to register in Queensland before being able to practise their professions in this state.

The bill repeals the Dental Technicians Registration Act 2001, the Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001 and the Health Practitioner Registration Boards (Administration) Act 1999. The repeal of these acts will abolish the registration boards for dental technicians and speech pathologists and the Office of the Health Practitioner Registration Boards, which provides administrative support to the boards.

Amendments to the Health Practitioner (Professional Standards) Act 1999 will rescind the provisions that relate to dental technicians and speech pathologists and leave in place, with necessary amendments, the provisions that will continue to apply to professions regulated under the national scheme. Consequential amendments are also being made to Queensland legislation to provide alternative definitions or remove references to the registration of dental technicians and speech pathologists.

This bill is consistent with the government's commitment to reduce regulatory burden and red tape. It is not a statement about the importance of these two professions within the health system. Both speech pathologists and dental technicians play vital roles in the integrated delivery of health care to Queenslanders. I acknowledge that they comprise dedicated and skilled health practitioners whose involvement in healthcare provision is essential for ensuring comprehensive care. Cessation of the registration system merely removes the regulatory burden that is placed on members of these professions. It does not impact on their role or importance within our health services. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading



**Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (2.52 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

## ~~ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING NATIONAL LAW (QUEENSLAND) BILL~~

### Introduction



~~**Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.52 pm): I present a bill for an act to adopt in Queensland a national law relating to electronic conveyancing and to amend this act, the Land Act 1994 and the Land Title Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Electronic Conveyancing National Law (Queensland) Bill 2012.~~

~~Tabled paper: Electronic Conveyancing National Law (Queensland) Bill 2012, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to introduce the Electronic Conveyancing National Law (Queensland) Bill into the House. The provisions contained in this bill will apply the Electronic Conveyancing National Law as a law of the state of Queensland and is an important step in Queensland's participation in a national electronic conveyancing system. The implementation of national e-conveyancing is a reform which will provide significant efficiencies in conveyancing practice with benefits for Queensland businesses and the general public.~~

~~Queensland has a secure and highly effective system of registered title to freehold land known as the Torrens system. The Torrens system is internationally recognised as being the best and most efficient system of land titling. It is a system of 'title by registration' where the state maintained register records all legal interests that exist on individual land titles. Those registered interests are backed by a state guarantee of title.~~

~~Since 1994 the freehold land register in Queensland has been kept in electronic form. This means that documents prepared in paper form are converted to electronic files to allow faster and more efficient processing for registration as well as efficiencies in searching the register and retrieval of documents. National e-conveyancing will extend the benefits of this efficient electronic processing as it will allow documents to be prepared in electronic form and lodged directly into the electronic register.~~