

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Comr

From: Dr Nicole Higgins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 November 2018 8:30 AM
To: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee; Mackay Electorate Office; Mirani Electorate Office; Whitsunday Electorate Office
Cc: Mark Raines
Subject: 009 Inquiry name: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018



Dear Mr Aaron Harper MP,

Inquiry name: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Bill Name: *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.*

We are GP's for doctors.

At Health on Central in Mackay, we do not discriminate. A patient is a patient, whether they be an MP, a GP, a teacher or a coal miner. Every patient should be able to discuss their health in a confidential environment.

We provide a safe, confidential space for doctors to be a patient.

Creating barriers to seeking care, such as fear of mandatory reporting to AHPRA prevents doctors from seeking help.

We support the WA model, The *Health Practitioner National Law (WA) Act 2010* exempts doctors in Western Australia from mandatory reporting practitioners who are under their professional care. Under this model, practitioners are able to seek help when needed without fear of repercussions. Unless doctors are at substantial risk of causing substantial harm they should have the same access to confidential care we provide to the rest of our community.

Beyondblue's 2013 survey of more than 12,000 doctors found that one in three were concerned that seeking treatment could have an adverse effect on their registration and right to practise. Additionally, one in two respondents raised lack of confidentiality as a barrier to seeking help.

We care for doctors, so that they can be the best doctors they can be to their patients. We see medical students, registrars, GP's, hospital consultants and many other health professionals in our region.

We urge you to adopt the WA model which exempts mandatory reporting of doctors who seek help.

Kind Regards,

Dr Nicole Higgins, Dr Mark Raines, Dr Kerry Summerscales, Dr Emma Sedlacek, Dr Samia Haider, Dr Rebecca Perks

I refer you to this attached blog from one of our GP's

https://rain0021.wordpress.com/2018/11/23/mandatory-reporting-deters-health-practitioners-seeking-mental-health/?fbclid=IwAR3eU38f-6S1m6JMTsRtgiNusiV3KbhXzYS35vAYoEG2_t5fNXMVZ6nmRRw

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