



26 November 2018

HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

By email: health@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear, Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (the committee),

2.2 Proposal to amend the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law)

The Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the proposed Bill.

This process will require consequential amendments to the existing Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

The ASA is the representative body for Australian anaesthetists who are in training and for those in established practice, and has more than 3000 members.

It is noted that the objectives of the amendment to the National Law are to introduce reforms to mandatory reporting by treating practitioners to ensure that practitioners have confidence to seek treatment for health conditions, while protecting the public from harm.

The ASA believes that every health practitioner must feel confident to seek appropriate medical care, and that a consequence of this would be that the risk of harm to both practitioners and patients is minimised.

The ASA is concerned that the current legislation does not achieve its aims, for practitioners or patients.

There is seen to be a perceived ambiguity in the existing legislation which can be seen to compromise the care given by the treating practitioners, and it is a matter of natural justice that practitioners should deserve the same level of access to care for their own health as they provide for their own patients.

Submission:

- The ASA supports what is referred to as the “West Australian model”.
- The ASA is aware that the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has made a technically detailed submission in relation to the proposed amendments, and the ASA supports the thrust of the AMA submission.

Australian Society of Anaesthetists

PO Box 6278, North Sydney, NSW 2059, Australia

T: 1800 806 654 | E: asa@asa.org.au | www.asa.org.au | ABN: 16 095 377 370



- In particular, it is considered key that the amendments should support the seeking of treatment by practitioners, and that the "risk of harm" should be defined as per the AMA submission.
- Finally, the AMA's recommendation for an exemption for Doctors' Health Services is strongly endorsed.

The ASA welcomes any queries in relation to its submission, and stands ready to assist this important legislative process.

Further information in relation to the ASA submission can be obtained by contacting Ms Jacintha Victor John, Policy Manager on [REDACTED] or via email to [REDACTED] in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Seal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Peter Seal
President

