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Foundation®

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9 February 2016

Ms Deborah Jeffrey  
Research Director  
Health and Ambulance Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Email: [hasc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hasc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Ms Jeffrey,

### **Heart Foundation submission on Hospital and Health Boards – Safe Nurse-to-Patient Ratios**

The Heart Foundation welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill 2015. Our comments are limited to nurse-to-patient ratios.

The Heart Foundation supports the objective of the Bill to establish a legislative framework to ensure safe nursing and midwifery staff numbers and improve patient outcomes, through mandating nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios and workload provisions in public sector health service facilities.

We believe the mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios will support the delivery of appropriate care such as that required by the new national Acute Coronary Syndromes Clinical Care Standard<sup>1</sup> and other initiatives led by the State-wide Cardiac Clinical Network.

To support the legislation and the future expansion of mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios, the Heart Foundation recommends the need to:

- Identify the types of workforce needed for specific areas of speciality (e.g. cardiac) to deliver evidenced based care across sub-acute and acute care areas in the public and private sector. This current proposed legislation only applies to the acute sector.
- Ensure that University training programs for nursing adequately cover the main areas of nursing such as cardiac. The current standard of this training needs improvement in Queensland.

If you would like further information please contact us. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Vines'.

**Stephen Vines**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Contact:**

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1. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Acute Coronary Syndromes Clinical Care Standard. Sydney: ACSQHC, 2014.