



17 September 2019

Mr Rob Hansen, Committee Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic
and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

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

Dear Mr Hansen

Heart Foundation submission on draft Health Transparency Bill 2019 and Regulation 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Health Transparency Bill 2019 and Regulation 2019.

Heart Foundation welcomes and supports the draft Health Transparency Bill 2019 and Regulation 2019 to ensure there is greater public access to data and a strong culture of safety and improvement.

About the Heart Foundation

The Heart Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to fighting the single biggest killer of Australians – heart disease. For 60 years, it has led the battle to save lives and improve the heart health of all Australians. Its sights are set on a world where people don't suffer or die prematurely because of heart disease.

Summary of the Heart Foundation's support:

1. The Heart Foundation supports the goals of the proposed Bill and Regulation to:

- Further enhance information available to patients;
- Improve transparency for healthcare professionals;
- Continue to drive improvements that maintain Queensland's leading health system.

2. The Heart Foundation supports the three main issues to be addressed by the draft Health Transparency Bill:

- To establish a legislative framework for obtaining and publishing comparative information about public and private health facilities and residential aged-care facilities;
- Requirements for public residential aged-care facilities to maintain minimum nurse and support worker skill mix ratio and a minimum number of hours of care per resident each day;
- Improve the operation and efficiency of Queensland's health complaints system by implementing recommendations made by the HCDSDFVP Committee.

3. The Heart Foundation strongly supports and recommends:

- Public accessibility of healthcare quality and patient safety reporting by making it available on a website.
- Future expansion of the website beyond maternity indicators to include additional clinical specialties. We also recommend that cardiac services be included in this list of clinical specialties as soon as possible.
- Continuous improvement to the transparency of the quality and safety of health services provided in Queensland, while helping people make better-informed decisions about their healthcare.
- Linkage of datasets. In particular, in the cardiac space we recommend linking data with the Queensland Cardiac Outcomes Register (QCOR), as an excellent source of Queensland cardiac outcomes data.
- Utilisation of the Heart Foundation's Heart Maps data to value add to the new website by providing accessible health data and outcomes for consumers. The Heart Maps data includes heart-related hospital admissions, mortality and specific lifestyle-related risk factors for heart disease across Queensland and Australia. Heart Maps highlights the disparity of these outcomes between regional and metropolitan areas and is largely utilised by health professionals: <https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/for-professionals/heart-maps/australian-heart-maps>
- The inclusion of cardiac complications in the list of Hospital Acquired Complications.
- Consultation with consumers, as well as health professionals, to understand the extent to which any new information would be meaningful to consumers.
- Commitment of recurrent, adequate funding to implement these improvements in data collection and reporting, website development and upkeep and minimum staffing ratios and hours of care.

If you have any queries about this submission, please don't hesitate to contact me at

Yours sincerely



Dr Anna Lewis
Acting Chief Executive Officer, QLD
National Heart Foundation