

19 December 2020

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Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

Queensland Parliament Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence
Prevention Committee*Submitted via email: health@parliament.qld.gov.au*

To whom it may concern,

Re: Health Legislation Amendment Bill

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Queensland Parliament Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's call for submissions on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

AHHA is Australia's national peak body for public hospitals and healthcare providers. Our membership includes state health departments, Local Hospital Networks (LHNs), public hospitals, community health services, Primary Health Networks (PHNs), primary healthcare providers, aged care providers, universities, individual health professionals and academics. As such, we are uniquely placed to be an independent, national voice for universal high-quality healthcare to benefit the whole community.

The AHHA congratulates the Queensland government on the implementation of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 reflecting the Queensland government's commitment to patient-centred, evidence-based, culturally appropriate, outcome-focused healthcare. We commend the government on taking this progressive step towards ensuring a healthcare system that aligns with evolving healthcare best practice and community expectations.

We would particularly like to congratulate the Queensland government on the national and international leadership this legislation demonstrates in ensuring legal visibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. We acknowledge the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) and the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC) for their extensive advocacy efforts, through an initial report in 2017 and subsequent evidence-based proposals, that have formed the basis for this legislative action addressing institutional barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity. We encourage the Queensland Government to continue to work collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and peak organisations to develop productive culturally appropriate strategies that improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes.

AHHA would also like to highlight support for the amendments to the Private Health Facilities Act 1999 that aligns conditions of licence for private health facilities within Queensland, with national safety and quality accreditation requirements that apply to public health facilities. We commend the Queensland Government on recognising the benefits of consistent accreditation standards and requirements across public and private facilities, and support the immediate introduction of these conditions to improve patient safety and the quality of health service provision.

AHHA does not feel it is necessary to appear as a witness at the committee's public hearing. If you require any more information, please get in touch. I would be pleased to discuss these views in more detail, if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alison Verhoeven'.

Alison Verhoeven
Chief Executive
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association

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