

## Health Consumers Queensland submission

# Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Queensland Parliament

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

11 July 2017

For enquiries regarding this submission please contact:

Melissa Fox, Chief Executive Officer

PO Box 12474  
George St Qld 4003

Level 9, 217 George St  
Brisbane Qld 4000

(07) 3012 9090  
info@hcq.org.au

## About Health Consumers Queensland

Health Consumers Queensland's mission is to support the voices of Queensland health consumers to achieve better health outcomes. We are a registered health promotion charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission and aim to strengthen the consumer perspective in health policy development and system reform and design.

Health Consumers Queensland defines consumers as people who use, or are potential users, of health services including their family and carers. Consumers may participate as individuals, groups, organisations of consumers, consumer representatives or communities.

Health Consumers Queensland believes consumers should be central to all decisions that impact on their health care options and advocates for consumer involvement in health policy, planning and service delivery at local, state and national levels.

Health Consumers Queensland fully supports the delivery of consumer-centred, integrated healthcare that fully promotes the consumer's active participation in their healthcare and broader health services and systems.

## Health Consumers Queensland's Response

Health Consumers Queensland provided a submission to the *Inquiry into the performance of the Queensland Health Ombudsman's functions pursuant to section 179 of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013* in August 2016.

We welcome the opportunity to provide a consumer and community perspective on the provisions to improve the safety, quality and transparency of health services for consumers through the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017*.

## Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1:**

We support the introduction of national registration for paramedics, under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The standardisation of registration, education accreditation, standards for entry to practice, protection of the title of 'paramedic' and regulation by a national board will deliver increased reassurance to the community about the consistency of the safety and quality of the services delivered by paramedics across Australia.

### **Recommendation 2:**

We support the recognition of nursing and midwifery as separate professions regulated by one National Board, due to their differing qualifications and roles.

### **Recommendation 3:**

We support the amendment that allows National Boards to ask registered health professionals for 'practice information'. Awareness of all locations where a health professional is practicing will lead to greater safety for the community.

### **Recommendation 4:**

We strongly support the amendment that will require National Boards to make public the names of those health professionals who have a prohibition order against them. This will provide greater transparency and informed decision making by health consumers.

### **Recommendation 5:**

We support the amendments that will improve communications between notifiers and Boards.

### **Recommendation 6:**

We support the amendment to the Health Ombudsman Act that ensures registered health practitioners and unregistered health practitioners can be dealt with in an equivalent way on the grounds of public interest.

### **Recommendation 7:**

We support the amendment to the Health Ombudsman Act that allows complainants the ability to waive their right to three monthly updates on an investigation. This may be due to several unavoidable delays and complainants should be able to choose the frequency of updates at their own discretion.