

From: [Nicole Lindsay](#)
To: [Health and Community Services Committee](#)
Subject: Submission re Health Ombudsmen Bill 2013
Date: Friday, 21 June 2013 4:38:02 PM

Enquiries: Nicky Lindsay
Telephone: 1800 177 244
Facsimile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

21 June 2013

BY EMAIL: hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

The Health and Community Services Parliamentary Committee

RE: Health Quality and Complaints Commission

Together Members write in relation to their employment at the Health Quality and Complaints Commission (HQCC). The current legislative changes being proposed by the Queensland Government will have significant impacts on employees of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission (HQCC). In particular, the staff see no reason why they should not automatically transition at level from the existing Queensland Government organisation for managing complaints (HQCC) to the new Queensland Government organisation for managing health complaints (Health Ombudsman).

As you may recall this issue was published in the Brisbane Times on the 30th May 2013. This article highlighted the concerns of Together members that work at the Health Quality Complaints Commission (HQCC) who have not received any clarification on their entitlements for a redundancy or with respect to transitional arrangements.

Together notes that a spokesman on behalf of the Minister for Health advised that the *"transitional provisions for the creation of the Health Ombudsman under the new legislation will be revealed when it is tabled"*. Further, it was also stated in this article that the Government needed to decide these arrangements in the Bill. On the 4 June 2013 the Minister of Health introduced the Health Ombudsman Bill 2013 into the Legislative Assembly. The Bill was referred to the Health and Community Services Committee and a public briefing about the draft bill occurred on Tuesday 11 June at 3.30pm in the Parliamentary Annexe.

The draft Health Ombudsman Bill 2013 does not provide any clarification on the redundancy entitlements or transitional arrangements for existing staff of the Health Quality Complaints Commission (HQCC). This is causing considerable angst for Together members and we are seeking your urgent attention to provide these details. Specifically, Together members from the Health Quality Complaints Commission (HQCC) are seeking confirmation that:

- HQCC Members will transition at level to the Qld Health Ombudsman once the

organisation is established.

- HQCC Members will be offered a redundancy as stipulated in the Public Service Directive 11/12 "*Early Retirement, Redundancy and Retrenchment*" if it is determined that their position is abolished, and this will include the current incentive payment of 12 weeks at the employees substantive level or \$6,500. (whichever is greater)
- HQCC Members that elect to seek redeployment across the Government Sector will be managed in accordance with the Public Service Directive 06/12 "*Employees Requiring Placement*"

Further, members are also seeking clarification on the appointment date of the Qld Health Ombudsman.

We look forward to your prompt response to this correspondence to clarify members concerns.

Kind Regards,

Together HQCC Members