



23 September 2013  
Trevor Ruthenberg MP  
Chair, Health and Community Services Committee  
Via email: [hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Ruthenberg,

Thank you for your invitation to the Queensland Centre for Mothers and Babies (QCMB) to provide a submission in response to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 (the Bill). This letter forms QCMB's submission.

QCMB's mission is to contribute to maternity care in Queensland that is woman-centred, integrated, evidence-based and provides optimal choices for all women. In line with this, our submission is focussed on the Bill's amendments to the Public Health Act 2005, which affect the collection of maternity health information.

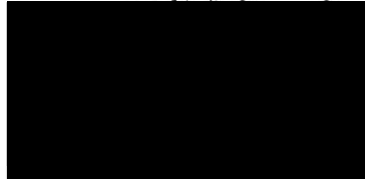
QCMB supports the proposed amendments to the Public Health Act 2005, for the following reasons:

- Maternal mortality is rare but very important. When maternal deaths occur, they have huge impacts on families and communities.
- Careful review of maternal mortality is essential to the safety and quality of maternity services. QCMB strongly supports the role of the Queensland Maternal and Perinatal Quality Council (QMPQC) in gathering and analysing maternal mortality data and transparently reporting to stakeholders and the community.
- QCMB supports reporting requirements, including legislation, which enable the maximum transparency and accountability of health care provider clinical outcomes, consistent with protecting patient/consumer privacy.
- QCMB supports the proposed amendments which maximise the ability of QMPQC and other relevant agencies to gather the information required to review all maternal deaths and to exchange information between agencies.
- For these reasons, QCMB believes the proposed amendments enhance the safeguards for women birthing in Queensland.



Our submission is brief, as we consider the Bill to be uncontroversial. QCMB would be pleased to provide additional information if this was considered helpful by the Health and Community Services Committee.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Sue Kruske**

Director

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